FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-027
Wednesday
9 February 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-027 CONTENTS *9 February 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Mubarak, Musa Mediate PLO-Israeli Talks in Cairo 1
Musa, Peres Discuss Progress *[MENA]* 1
Sha'th: 'No Results' Achieved *[MENA]* 1
Delegations Resume Talks *[MENA]* 1
Mubarak Receives 'Arafat, Peres *[MENA]* 2
Mubarak-'Arafat-Peres Meeting Ends *[MENA]* 2
Sarid: Talks Will Take 'Long Time' *[MENA]* 2
Sources: 'Differences Still Persist' *[MENA]* 2
Peres: 'Things Are Moving Forward' *[MENA]* 3
Israeli Envoy on 'Climate of Optimism' *[MENA]* 4

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on UNSC Seats for Arabs, Germany *[MENA]* 4

Islamic Affairs

Council Urges Severing Ties With Serbia, Others *[MENA]* 4
Islamic Countries To 'Take Steps' *[Tehran Radio]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Sets Dates for Strikes, 'Confrontation' *[Al-Quds Radio]* 5
Al-'Asifah Forces Claim Attack on Chemical Factory *[Al-Quds Radio]* 5
Fatah Activist Denies Cooperation With Hamas *[HA'ARETZ 8 Feb]* 5
'Arafat Adviser Protests Murder of Hawks Leader *[AL-QUDS 5 Feb]* 5
'Abd-al-Shafi: Israel Responsible for Gaza Chaos *[AL-QUDS 7 Feb]* 6
Fourteen Wounded by IDF in Gaza, West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
'Rejectionist Forces' Urged To Review Stands *[VOP]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri Predicts Amnesty 'Soon,' Elections in 3 Years *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Feb]* .. 7
FIS 'Spokesman' Reacts to President's Call for Dialogue *[London MBC TV]* 7
Radio Analyzes Zeroual Address to Nation *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Minister Says 23 'Terrorists' Extradited to Egypt *[Cairo Radio]* 8
Minister Comments on Remarks of 'Terrorist' Groups *[MENA]* 8
Militants Tell Citizens To Remove Money From Banks *[AFP]* 9
Musa, Israeli Minister Meet, Discuss Issues *[MENA]* 9
Minister Reiterates Role of Security Forces *[MENA]* 9
Efforts To Settle Bosnia Situation To Intensify *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Article Reviews Continuation, Cycle of Violence *[AL-AHRAM 2 Feb]* 10

Sudan

Al-Bashir Holds Talks With Former SPLA Rebels *[Omdurman National Unity Radio]* 12
Government Denies Reports on Operations in East, West *[SUNA]* 12
Foreign Ministry Statement Condemns Sarajevo Events *[SUNA]* 13
Foreign Ministry Official on Human Rights, Bosnia *[Omdurman National Unity Radio]* 13
Opposition Blames Government for Aiding 'Terrorists' *[MENA]* 13
Government Warplane Bombs Village, Refugee Camp *[AFP]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

UN's Ekeus Notes Trip Results, Departs *[Kuwait Radio]* 15
Court Affirms Competence for Trying Royalty *[AFP]* 15

Saudi Arabia

Editorial Decries 'Procrastination' of West in Bosnia *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Feb]* 15

Yemen

Salih Calls for Unity, Ending Disputes *[Sanaa Radio]* 16
Foreign Minister Comments on Cause of 'Political Crisis' *[MENA]* 17
Al-Bid Explains Delay in Signing Political Document *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Feb]* 17
Military Commanders Discuss Crisis, Stress Unity *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Defense Minister on Unity Issues, Threats *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Feb]* 19
Civil Aviation Source Notes Remarks on Seized Plane *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Salih Addresses Celebration Marking Seige on Sanaa *[Sanaa Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Ekeus Said To Make 'Personal Effort' To Lift Embargo *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 5 Feb]* 23
INC 'Final Statement' on Salah-al-Din Meeting *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 23
  'Field Action' Plan Approved *[AL-HAYAH 8 Feb]* 25
'Huge' Explosion Reported at Foreign Ministry *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 26
Mortar Attack on Party Branch Reported *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 26
Pro-Regime Kurdish Officials Pledge Loyalty to Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Deteriorating Food, Health Situation Reported *[INA]* 26
Paper Notes Citizens' Complaints About Police Conduct *[BABIL 31 Jan]* 27
Trade Ministry Blamed for Hike in Dollar Rate *[BABIL 31 Jan]* 28
Columnist Notes Shortcomings of Development Project *[AL-THAWRAH 30 Jan]* 28
Libyan Official on Blockade, Cultural Exchange *[AL-THAWRAH 30 Jan]* 29
Jordanian Ambassador Robbed by Highwaymen *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 29
U.K's Major Ridiculed Over Kurdish 'Safe Haven' *[INA]* 29
U.S. Aircraft Violations Protested to UN *[INA]* 30

ISRAEL

Al-Asad Said Using Hizballah as 'Card' in Talks *[Voice of the South]* 31
Beilin Queried on Progress of Peace Talks *[Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE 7 Feb]* 31
Beilin Meets Omani, Qatari Officials in Washington *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Saudi Businessmen Arrive for Investment Purposes *[DAVAR 8 Feb]* 32
Mordekhay: Northern Border 'Relatively Quiet' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
IDF Begins Evacuating Outposts in Gaza Strip *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 8 Feb]* 32
Navy Launches New Category Missile Boat *[HA'ARETZ 8 Feb]* 32
Barak Antimissile Missile Testing 'Successful' *[DAVAR 8 Feb]* 33
Justice Official Appointed to UN Committee *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
YI'UD Secretariat Elects Party Officials *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Three 'Terrorists' Given Life Sentences for Murder *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33

JORDAN

- King Comments on Cabinet Meeting Discussions 34
  - Notes Peace Process *[Amman TV]* 34
  - Reviews Trip Abroad *[Amman Radio]* 34
  - Views Coordination With Palestinians *[Amman TV]* 35
- Al-Majali, Fatah's Bal'awi Review Peace Process *[Amman TV]* 35
- Al-Majali on Serb Aggression, Diplomat, Cinema Blasts *[Amman Radio]* 36
- Interior Minister Discloses Sabotage Attempts *[Amman Radio]* 36
- 'Brutal Aggression' Against Sarajevo Denounced *[Amman TV]* 36
- Japanese Official Received by King, Awarded Medal *[Amman Radio]* 37
- Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Japan *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Feb]* 37
- Planning Minister Signs German Loan Agreements *[Amman Radio]* 37
- 'Efforts' Target Israeli Antiquities Excavations *[AL-DUSTUR 6 Feb]* 37
- Prosecutor General To Probe Food, Drug Charges *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Feb]* 38

LEBANON

- Jordanian Envoy Comments on Diplomat's Death *[Beirut Radio]* 40
  - Abu-Nidal Group Denies Link *[VOL]* 40
- 'Resistance' Activities in South Updated *[RFL]* 40
- Israel Reinforces Posts; Hizballah Fighter Killed *[Beirut Radio]* 40
- Hizballah Deputy Urges State Not To Remain 'Spectator' *[VOL]* 41

SYRIA

- Saudi Crown Prince Arrives in Damascus on Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 42
  - Al-Asad, Crown Prince Meet *[Damascus Radio]* 42
- Al-Asad Receives Kuwaiti Prime Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 42
- Al-Asad Receives Algerian President's Envoy *[Damascus Radio]* 42
- U.S. Conditions for Terrorist List Removal Cited *[AL-SHA'B 4 Feb]* 42
- Commentary on Peace Process, U.S. Interests *[Damascus Radio]* 42
- Commentary: Geneva Summit Defines Nature of Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 43
- TISHRIN: Any Compromise on Golan Said 'Out of Question' *[Damascus Radio]* 44
- Commentary: Israel 'Responsible' for Blocking Process *[Damascus Radio]* 45
- 'Provocation' of Expanded Settlements Lamented *[Damascus Radio]* 45
- Israeli 'Strong-Arm' Tactics in Lebanon Said 'Foolish' *[Damascus Radio]* 46

SOUTH ASIA

India

- Sharma, Czech President Meet, Hold News Conference *[Delhi Radio]* 48
  - Rao-Havel Meeting Not Held *[Prague Radio]* 48
  - Czech President Comments, Departs *[Delhi Radio]* 48
- Ministers Criticize Bhutto's 'Propaganda Offensive' *[Delhi Radio]* 48
- Congress-I Demonstrates at Pakistan High Commission *[Delhi Radio]* 48
- Russia Begins Supplying Parts for Military Hardware *[AFP]* 49
- Editorial Examines Clinton Administration Policies *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 29 Jan]* 49
- Paper Says Pakistan's Bhutto Appeasing Military *[INDIAN EXPRESS 31 Jan]* 49
- Commerce Minister Discusses Investment, Reforms *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 5 Feb]* 50
- Killing of BSP Leader Sparks Violence in Varanasi *[Delhi Radio]* 50
- Forty-Six Tripura 'Extremists' Surrender *[Delhi Radio]* 51
- Commentary Views Treatment of Minorities in Pakistan *[Delhi International]* 51

Iran

- Fallahian on Planning of Assassination Plot *[Tehran Radio]* 51
  - Paper Questions Official Version *[AFP]* 53
  - Commentary on 'Satanic Powers' Plot *[Tehran Radio]* 53

Velayati Visits in Indonesia, Urges Action in Bosnia *[IRNA]* 54
Commentary: U.S. Backs Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Turkish Economy Minister Meets Government Officials *[IRNA]* 54
Paper Discusses Turkey's Stance on Kurdish Problem *[RESALAT 30 Jan]* 55
Russian Ambassador on Role in Persian Gulf *[ABRAR 26 Jan]* 55
Yazdi: Human Rights Charges Aim To Discredit Nation *[IRNA]* 57
Majlis Speaker Receives Moroccan Ambassador *[Tehran Radio]* 57

Nepal

Bhattarai Loses By-Election to Communists *[AFP]* 57
Students Demonstrate Against Prime Minister *[AFP]* 58

Pakistan

Protest Lodged Against Indian 'Vilification Campaign' *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Daily Criticizes Remarks of India's President *[PAKISTAN 7 Feb]* 58
Bhutto Sends 'National Reconciliation' Message to Sharif *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Bhutto's Husband To Visit Baghdad as 'Special Envoy' *[Islamabad International]* 59
Government Expresses 'Shock' Over Sarajevo Events *[Islamabad International]* 59
Prime Minister Attends Air Force Roll-Out Ceremony *[THE NEWS 8 Feb]* 59
    Bhutto Comments on Self-Reliance, Defense *[Islamabad TV]* 60

Arab-Israeli Talks

Mubarak, Musa Mediate PLO-Israeli Talks in Cairo

Musa, Peres Discuss Progress

NC0802143194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and discussed the progress achieved so far in eliminating the obstacles hindering the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Ambassador to Israel Mahmud Basyuni and Foreign Ministry spokesman Ambassador Naji al-Ghatrifi and on the Israeli side by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid and Ambassador David Sultan.

Musa met earlier today for one hour with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat, Peres, and Musa are expected to get together at a working luncheon Musa is hosting for the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

In another development, Avi Gil, Israeli Foreign Ministry deputy director general, stated that at noon today President Husni Mubarak contacted Shim'on Peres. The Israeli foreign minister informed Mubarak of the real stand regarding the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations so far, Gil said.

He added that President Mubarak invited Peres to attend a meeting with him at 1830 this evening.

The spokesman noted that the Israeli minister will also meet with the Austrian president at 1930 today.

In other developments, sources close to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations stated to MENA that the general atmosphere of the talks is good.

The Palestinian delegation sources said that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will continue their negotiations today and tomorrow. Peres will not leave Cairo until late on Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning after finding a solution to the obstacles to signing the agreement.

The same sources clarified that the minutes of the negotiations, including all the points of difference and agreement, will only be initialed by the two sides. The points of difference will be left for President 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin to resolve later.

The sources said that the points of difference revolve basically around the issue of the crossings and Israel's insistence on maintaining its security control over them.

The news agency has also learned that the paper being discussed currently is the Davos document, which is based on the Cairo paper. The Davos document consists of three main pages in addition to a special and a separate eight-page section on the minutes regarding the crossings.

The Israelis made some changes to the Davos document which the Palestinians reject, insisting that this matter should be seen as a comprehensive deal that includes the Davos and Cairo documents.

It is worth noting here that the Palestinian delegation to the talks includes Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', Nabil Sha'th, Akram Haniyah, and Faysal al-Husayni; the Israeli delegation includes Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry director general; Yo'el Zinger, the legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry; and Uzi Dayan, chief of military planning.

Sha'th: 'No Results' Achieved

NC0802152894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, told correspondents today that negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations have been positive so far but that no results have been achieved.

Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the occupied territories, said: We hope that matters will continue to proceed well but we have not finished the talks yet.

Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said that the clauses of the Davos document are being discussed one by one and it is too early to talk about results. He stressed that the atmosphere during the negotiations was good. He added that all the issues raised were discussed during the talks, which lasted all last night and today.

The members of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations made these statements at the end of the meeting in al-Andalus Palace, Heliopolis, which lasted more than seven hours, and while they were on their way to the working luncheon given by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the hotel across from the palace.

Delegations Resume Talks

NC0802175194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators resumed their talks this afternoon at al-Andalus Palace. The Palestinian side is chaired by Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO's Economic Department. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser; and Akram Haniyah and Faysal al-Husayni—officials from the occupied territories—are members of the Palestinian delegation.

The Israeli side is chaired by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Joel Zinger, and Chief of Military Planning Uzi Dayan.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left the Meridien Hotel after a working luncheon given by 'Amr Musa for the Palestinian president, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and

Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid. The luncheon was also attended by the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the talks.

Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, stated to journalists before he left for the venue of the talks that work has been going on since the very beginning. We continued our discussions throughout last night until 0300 today, he said. Today, negotiations started once again at 1000. We are determined to reach an agreement.

Sha'th said we will be meeting immediately, but we cannot confirm or discuss specific results. However, we are doing our utmost.

The Palestinian president's adviser clarified that 'Arafat and Peres will leave Cairo, tomorrow, Wednesday. Therefore, we hope to make some tangible progress before then, he added.

Answering a question on whether the agreement will be signed tomorrow, Sha'th said that he does not know yet for sure whether President 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres will meet this evening with President Husni Mubarak.

On his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the two sides agreed not to make any statements before things are clarified because they are now at a crucial stage of the negotiations.

Peres clarified that the talks are proceeding well. He confirmed that the Palestinian and Israeli sides are trying to find a formula for overcoming the obstacles.

The Israeli minister expressed his happiness over his meeting this evening with President Husni Mubarak, which, according to him, took place upon the invitation of his excellency.

He said that the negotiations are going on continuously. If the need should arise on both sides for us, "myself and Chairman [al-ra'is] 'Arafat," to meet, "we will meet with each other to overcome the obstacles."

Shim'on Peres praised the great cooperation the Palestinians and the Israelis are getting from the Egyptian side.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and head of the PLO's Information Department, clarified on his part that this evening, it will become clear whether there is a possibility to initial a paper over which both sides, the Palestinian and the Israeli, agree. He noted that so far, this has not been confirmed.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the issues still under discussion are the same that were discussed before in Cairo, Taba, and Davos. These issues revolve round the crossings, the axis roads [al-turuq al-'ardiyah] in the Gaza Strip, and the rest of the issues pertaining to Jericho.

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat, Peres

NC0802175894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1724 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting this evening at the Presidential Palace attended by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

President Mubarak met before that with 'Arafat and Peres separately.

Mubarak-'Arafat-Peres Meeting Ends

NC0802193294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the Presidential Press Office, said at the end of the session of talks that President Husni Mubarak held with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that President 'Arafat and Peres will resume their meetings at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry later tonight in the presence of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

He added that the talks will probably be resumed tomorrow morning, Wednesday. He said the Palestinian president's political adviser Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh [title as received] and Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid participated in the approximately one-hour tripartite Mubarak-'Arafat-Peres meeting.

Sarid: Talks Will Take 'Long Time'

NC0802223394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a one-hour meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres tonight in an attempt to remove obstacles delaying the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

After the meeting, Musa, Peres, and the Israeli delegation members left for al-Andalus Palace to meet Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Musa and Peres refused to give any statements, but Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said: We are continuing the negotiations and I believe this will go on throughout the night. He noted that the talks will take a long time.

Sources: 'Differences Still Persist'

NC0902070994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations continued up to dawn today under the cochairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the presence of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in an attempt to reach an agreement that would eliminate the obstacles hindering the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. Sources close to the negotiations have said that the stances assumed by both sides have not changed a bit and that differences still persist on the crossing points and the area of Jericho.

[Paris AFP in English at 0210 GMT on 9 February carries a Cairo-datelined item by Haro Chakmakjian on the negotiations, which adds: "Israeli and PLO negotiators made 'some progress' in a marathon session of talks deep into the night aimed at launching Palestinian self-rule, but an accord would still need more work, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said here early Wednesday.

["'We made some progress and we shall try tomorrow (Wednesday) to complete our work,' Peres told reporters after more than four hours of discussions with a PLO delegation led by Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

["Peres said both sides would meet again at about 10:00 a.m. (0800 GMT) Wednesday, and he would meet 'Arafat at about midday.

["'We are working on a text that we are to agree on,' Peres added.

["Another Israeli negotiator, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, said differences with the PLO had been reduced, but 'nobody at this point knows how close we are' to an agreement.

["The points of disagreement were sensitive, he explained. 'We haven't set a deadline yet.'

["Negotiators from the Palestine Liberation Organisation could not be reached for comment on Tuesday's talks held at the Andalus Palace in the northeastern suburb of Heliopolis, where 'Arafat was staying.

["Savir said both sides were working 'word by word and paragraph by paragraph.'

["They were concentrating on security issues such as the control of international borders and road access to Jewish settlements, which, together with the size of the autonomous Jericho area, have been the main stumbling blocks.

["Earlier Egyptian leaders stepped in to try to break the deadlock after an inconclusive round of talks Monday."]

The same AFP report adds: ["An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official told AFP Egypt had 'made every effort to enable the two sides to reach an accord.'

["President Husni Mubarak held a 45-minute meeting with 'Arafat and Peres, after a day when the two sides reported no progress.

["Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa later met Peres for an hour to try to resolve the remaining difficulties.

["Peres said he had the 'mandate of the government' and would stay on in Cairo as long as necessary to overcome obstacles. The points agreed in Davos still stood, he said, denying Palestinian charges that Israel was backing out.

["However, he told Israeli radio: 'Even if we sign an agreement on security issues, which are on the agenda, there is a range of other subjects which we have not yet tackled and which will have to be settled.'

["They included the powers to be devolved to the Palestinian autonomy council, the electoral system and the transfer of civilian authority."]

Peres: 'Things Are Moving Forward'

NC0902120694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a brief private meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this morning at the al-Andalus Palace. The Palestinian president then left for a meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at the Arab League.

Palestinian and Israeli delegations, led respectively by Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', the head of the PLO Economic Department, and Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, continued their "marathon talks" aiming to overcome the difficulties facing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement signed on 13 September 1993.

Commenting on his talks until dawn with president 'Arafat and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Peres said some topics were discussed in private. We are trying to overcome some obstacles. Asked if he was optimistic, Peres said: We should not be making statements or forecasts now while the negotiations are under way. When we finish our work, we will make statements. Peres said things are moving forward.

Faysal al-Husayni, a member of the Palestinian delegation and the man in charge of the occupied territories, said there is some progress in the talks and that further discussions will be held to reach results.

Elsewhere, president 'Arafat received Terje Larsen, the Norwegian Government's envoy, in the al-Andalus Palace this morning. Afterward, Larsen said he is in Cairo to follow the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations closely.

Sources close to the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators told MENA of cautious optimism prevailing during the marathon talks, which have been going on continuously for two days.

The sources said that during his meeting with 'Arafat and Peres yesterday, President Husni Mubarak emphasized the need to reach an agreement during the current talks. He humored his guests by saying: You will not leave Cairo until you reach an agreement.

The same sources said that Peres will not leave Cairo this evening as scheduled. He will resume talks until tomorrow, Thursday, before heading for Geneva to attend a conference for the Jewish community in Europe.

MENA has learned that the major points of dispute are security control of the crossing points, settlements security, issues pertaining to the roads leading to Gaza settlements, and the area of Jericho.

To put it simply, the dispute persisting between the Israeli and Palestinian sides throughout all earlier rounds has revolved around Palestinian control of symbols of national sovereignty in the context of self-rule and the Israeli fear that granting the Palestinians such control might lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Sources close to the Israeli delegation have said that the Israeli military institution, represented in the delegation by General Uzi Dayan, head of the political planning department of the Israeli Army Staff Command, refuses to grant the Palestinians security control over crossing points between Jordan and Jericho and between Egypt and Gaza under the excuse of preserving Israel's security.

Israeli Envoy on 'Climate of Optimism'

NC0902123294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Egyptian sources today said that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have made progress in their talks over the past two days, particularly with regard to the remaining problems facing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

The sources said that the two delegations will continue their meetings today to examine points of disagreement concerning the crossings and the Jericho area. The sources said that the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli talks is expected to be announced tonight or tomorrow.

Israel's Ambassador to Cairo David Sultan said the talks have made progress. He voiced the hope that more progress will follow and that the remaining points of disagreement will be settled. The Israeli ambassador said the talks will continue today and that there is a climate of optimism. The ambassador pointed to a need to reach agreement on particular issues but added that others have been settled in talks over the past two days. The Israeli ambassador declined to elaborate further, saying that the talks are still under way and that it is better to wait until they are over before discussing their details.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on UNSC Seats for Arabs, Germany

NC0902110394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that during his recent visit to Bonn he told German officials that the Arab side generally supports Germany's acquirement of a permanent seat at the UN Security Council [UNSC], but any decision in this matter will have to be made by the Arab League Council.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid told MENA that the United Nations should treat the Arab region as a geographical unit entitled to a permanent seat in the UNSC in the event that the latter's membership is expanded in accordance with the proposal made by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that granting a permanent seat at the UNSC to the Arab group would help boost relations between the Arab World, Europe, and the rest of the World. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Council Urges Severing Ties With Serbia, Others

NC0802210794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—The International Islamic Council for Propagation and Relief has appealed to the governments and nations of the Islamic world to sever diplomatic, cultural, and economic ties with Serbia and the countries collaborating with it, particularly Russia and Greece, to expel these countries' ambassadors from Islamic capitals, and to close down their embassies in accordance with UN resolutions on an economic boycott of the former Yugoslavia.

In a statement today, the council noted the need to call on the Islamic nations and their political and party institutions, trade and professional unions, labor, youth, and student federations, and economic, trade, cultural, tourism centers to boycott the Yugoslav interests and companies in Islamic countries, to suspend all dealings with Yugoslavia, and not to offer services for its communications companies at ports and airports.

The council stressed the need for an immediate response to the world intention to use military power to enforce international legitimacy, lift the blockade of Sarajevo disregarding impediments that some countries face in implementing this policy, and to adopt a political, military plan to lift the international embargo on arming the Bosnian people with all means to enable them to defend themselves.

The statement explained the importance of setting up an international popular tribunal that should have access to information and be impartial and neutral to pursue and punish the Serb criminals in line with human (?principles), international laws, and human rights documents.

The statement called on banks, economic institutions, and financiers and businessmen in the Islamic world to open funds to collect contributions to help the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, eliminate the effects of aggression, and urge Islamic organizations to increase their aid to the victims of the oppressive Serbian aggression.

The council emphasized the importance of coordinating stands between the Islamic Conference Organization and the Arab League and similar official and public regional and international leagues to rally all sincere efforts in support of the principles of right, justice, and peace.

Islamic Countries To 'Take Steps'

LD0902115294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] contact group has issued a statement announcing that if the international community refrains from staging aerial attacks on the positions of the Serbian aggressors, the Islamic countries, based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, will take steps toward securing the legitimate right of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to defend itself.

The statement asks the NATO member countries to implement the will of the international community without wasting any time, and by resorting to aerial attacks, to ensure that the Serbs comply with the Security Council resolutions.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Sets Dates for Strikes, 'Confrontation'

JN0802185794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement in which it congratulated the masses of our Arao and Islamic nations on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan. It also urged the sons of our Palestinian Arab people to carry out the following activities:

1. To consider 9 February a day of comprehensive strike to mark the beginning of the 75th month of the blessed intifadah.
2. To consider 13 February a day of popular gatherings and seminars in protest of the ominous Gaza-Jericho agreement.
3. To consider 14-16 February days of confrontation against the enemy's forces and settlers.
4. To consider 17 February a day of comprehensive strike in solidarity with strugglers in the Zionist enemy's prisons.
5. To consider 27 February a day of a distinguished escalation against enemy forces and settlers on the anniversary of the great Badr battle [ancient Islamic battle].

Al-'Asifah Forces Claim Attack on Chemical Factory

JN0802194694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] A military spokesman for the General Command of the al-'Asifah Forces—the command of the Fatah forces inside the occupied territories—has stated the following:

Our cells operating inside the occupied homeland have planted advanced explosive charges in the Haifa chemical factory north of the industrial zone, which is adjacent to the Haifa oil refineries.

The charges went off at 1300 on 7 February destroying the factory and setting huge fires that spread to neighboring factories and installations.

The military spokesman added that, since the operation, rescue and fire fighting teams, the police, and the mobile environment protection unit for treating dangerous materials have been making great attempts to place the situation under control, while clouds of black smoke covered the whole Gulf of Haifa.

Fatah Activist Denies Cooperation With Hamas

TA0802115894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 94 p A4

[Report by 'Amira Hess and ITIM]

[Excerpts] "Were Hamas and the Fatah Hawks really discussing the possibility of cooperation, the two Hamas leaders would not have rushed to tell the newspapers that they encouraged the Fatah Hawks to attack Israelis, as they did several days ago." This statement was made yesterday to HA'ARETZ by Fatah member Sufiyan Abu-Zayida in reaction to a report by security elements on the emerging cooperation between Fatah Hawks squads and Hamas.

"In their press interviews, Dr. Ibrahim Yazuri and Khalid al-Hindi have encouraged the Fatah Hawks to act against Israelis," said Abu-Zayida, the PLO liaison with the Israeli authorities. Yesterday he was mentioned as one of the young leaders who have lost control over the Hawks. "It stands to reason that if they meant to forge such cooperation, they would not run to the press with their remarks of encouragement. In my opinion, this is just a guess on the part of the Shin Bet." [passage omitted]

A senior officer said yesterday that the experimental period in which the pursuit of Fatah members was discontinued in return for their stopping all terrorist activity failed and therefore was called off. [passage omitted]

Over the past month, the security forces have resumed their efforts to capture Fatah activists. Their most recent operation on 3 February, in which senior Fatah activist Salim Mu'affi was killed, caused an uproar in Fatah.

Faysal al-Husayni said last Sunday that the Palestinians never really accepted the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] proposal concerning fugitives, including the clause proposing that the fugitives lay down their arms and transfer to Tunis.

The senior officer added that Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, was briefed by senior IDF officers on the situation and voiced great disappointment in Fatah's inability to control the terrorists and their squads. He added that Rabin has endorsed the continued pursuit of terrorists.

'Arafat Adviser Protests Murder of Hawks Leader

TA0802155094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Feb 94 pp 1, 19

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Jibril al-Rajub, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has protested the killing of Salim Muwafi, the Fatah Hawks leader in Gaza, by the Israeli forces. He considered this act as an attempt to kill the peace process.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, al-Rajub said that the Palestinian leadership regards the Fatah Hawks as part of the forces that have to protect the national authority. Consequently, we have to provide security for them.

Regarding the peace process, al-Rajub accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of responsibility for hampering the peace process, and said: We realize that Rabin is the key figure in Israel, but apparently he regrets signing the Oslo accord. Therefore, he is trying to hinder what was agreed on in Davos.

Al-Rajub said that the PLO is ready to sign the drafts that were agreed on in Davos. It is also ready to take over power within 24 hours after the Israeli withdrawal.

'Arafat's occupied territories' affairs adviser said that the Palestinian side considers a Palestinian-Israeli summit to be warranted. He also expressed his apprehension at the perpetuation of the current situation, which can only lead to frustration, opposition to the peace process, and an increase in the phenomena of internal and foreign violence. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi: Israel Responsible for Gaza Chaos

TA0802155494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Feb 94 pp 1, 19

[By 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi yesterday strongly condemned excesses, actions which undermine the internal Palestinian rank, reckless use of firearms, and acts that subject the residents' lives to danger and death.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that violating the rights of others, resorting to violence, and undermining the principle of cooperation and assistance are grave indications that harm the Palestinian people's unity and cohesion.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi held the Israeli authorities responsible for the disorder and chaos among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, especially the spread of weapons in the streets, which reach the hands of adolescents and irresponsible individuals. He added that in accordance with international law, Israel, as an occupying country, is obligated to protect Palestinian residents and care for their safety.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: In light of this situation, for which everyone knows Israel is responsible, the Palestinians should rally around their unity and avoid infighting, which does not serve the Palestinian people.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi appealed to the Palestinian leadership to work tirelessly and adopt a unified Palestinian position on a democratic basis in order to avoid all the dangers that threaten the Palestinian people, their militant heritage, and honorable history of struggle against the occupation.

Fourteen Wounded by IDF in Gaza, West Bank

TA0802200894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Fourteen people were wounded in incidents with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip today. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that nine people were injured in the Jabalyah refugee camp and three in al-Shati'. Palestinian sources say that five of the wounded are children under 12.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that a youth was wounded by IDF gunfire in Janin after he threw metal bars and stones at soldiers. A Hebron resident was slightly injured by a petrol bomb which was thrown at an IDF patrol.

'Rejectionist Forces' Urged To Review Stands

JN0802204294 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The continuous obstacles in the negotiations to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement—which are caused by Israeli intransigence and the maneuvers of the Israeli negotiating team, which tries to evade the spirit and letter of the agreement—confirm, once again, the truth about the Palestinian reading of the agreement. This reading proved at the negotiations to be the more accurate reading of the agreement, the closest to its spirit, and the most accurate to interpreting its clauses.

The stumbling of the talks indicate, beyond any doubt, that the Palestinian reading is facing the Israeli reading—with full strength and firmness—and that the fierce conflict between them refutes the desperate allegations by the rejectionist forces on Palestinian capitulation and on the weakness of the Palestinian negotiator in the face of the Israeli negotiator.

If the arguments of the rejectionist forces on capitulation, weakness, and enormous concessions—which the Palestinian negotiator is supposedly making there—are true, we would not have seen obstacles, conflict in the negotiations, or Israeli intransigence, since the Israeli negotiator would have taken everything from the Palestinian negotiator—as claimed by the statements of the rejectionists. The agreement also would have been implemented from the first moments in the negotiations in accordance with the Israeli way and reading.

Yes, if the Palestinian negotiator was weak and surrendered to the Israeli negotiator, we would not have passed through three months of heated negotiations, which have been fruitful thus far, between the two parties.

Will the Palestinian rejectionist forces look at these facts thoroughly and with a national eye so as to practice a role—even as an opposition—to support the Palestinian view and the Palestinian reading, which is aimed at turning the agreement into a first step on the path of building the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Yes, this is what we want from the agreement. There is no difference over this national objective. Will there be a review of stands before it is too late?

Algeria

Dembri Predicts Amnesty 'Soon,' Elections in 3 Years

PM0902112694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi: "Algerian Foreign Minister: Zeroual To Issue General Amnesty"]

[Text] Brussels—Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri announced yesterday that Algeria has abandoned the security option in favor of dialogue. He stressed that the dialogue is being conducted with all political groups without exception. He urged the renunciation of violence. He said: Elections will be held in three years. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dembri said that a general amnesty will be issued soon for all political prisoners.

The Algerian foreign minister was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Brussels, where he attended the meetings of the European-Algerian joint cooperation council. He asked for European aid to help to extricate Algeria from its economic crisis. It was announced yesterday that President Liamine Zeroual had received the national dialogue committee, which arranged the national conference held on 25 January.

On the situation in Algeria, Dembri said: The dialogue plan is continuing among all Algerian political groups without exception. It is essential, because the political and economic crisis requires united efforts from all Algerian people. We also urge those taking part in national accord to renounce violence as a means to reach or remain in power. I believe that in three years we will return to the electoral march and build a new legitimacy to establish an authority in Algeria.

Pointing out that he is the foreign minister and a member of the committee that appointed the head of state, he said: I believe that President Zeroual has from the outset—as mentioned in his swearing-in speech and the speech delivered the day before yesterday—clarified the new framework for dialogue in Algeria, clearly excluding the security option as a solution in Algeria and giving precedence to dialogue. Because security and stability are the responsibility of every Algerian man and woman. Dembri added: There are very reassuring prospects in Algeria, which causes us to ask Arab public opinion to support the transition phase the country is experiencing and not to choose between Algeria's sons.

Regarding his current mission in Brussels, the Algerian foreign minister said: We are hoping to reach during our meetings with European officials a formula leading to the signing of a new partnership agreement between Algeria and the EC as soon as possible and laying common ground for a free exchange between the two parties. The agreement we are seeking will also expand within the framework of cooperation with the Maghreb community, especially Tunisia and Morocco. It is necessary that we as the Maghreb Union act as a bloc to negotiate with the EC in order to guarantee for ourselves a flourishing future.

FIS 'Spokesman' Reacts to President's Call for Dialogue

NC0802220494 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] MBC has obtained the first reaction to Algerian President Zeroual's call for dialogue. Rabah Kebir, spokesman-in-exile for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], said yesterday in an interview with MBC—despite the ban imposed on his activity by the German authorities—that the FIS will go along with the call for a dialogue, provided all prisoners are released. Here is a report from our correspondent Anis Abu-al-'Ila in Germany:

[Begin recording] [Kebir] I believe that the conviction that negotiations are the key to a solution in Algeria is a suitable and civilized approach. However, we must wait for actual deeds. Although there is some seriousness, as I can see from some paragraphs in the speech, there are some contradictions as well. On one hand, Liamine Zeroual insists on using violence once again, while on the other he is insisting on dialogue. A clear-cut stance needs to be adopted. Yesterday, for instance, (al-Qalb) mountains were bombed by aircraft while the speech was being delivered, and these are confirmed reports. Once again we say that if there is a serious desire to hold negotiations, it will have to begin with releasing all prisoners, first and foremost the FIS leaders, and then allowing a meeting among FIS key figures under the leadership of its leaders, Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

[Abu-al-'Ila] Does that mean you are ready for such a meeting as a first step toward a dialogue with the Algerian Government?

[Kebir] What I am saying is that a final decision on this matter is up to the FIS leaders, once they are able to meet with their historic leadership. [end recording]

Radio Analyzes Zeroual Address to Nation

LD0802173294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Here is an analysis of the address made by the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, with colleagues Hocine Chaiche and Chaaban Lounakel.

[First unidentified speaker] The essential idea in the head of state's address was his announcement that Algeria had a specific policy and a clear plan to deal with the political crisis, and that it was in control of that process and firm in implementing the policy. This means that we have moved from the stage of diagnosis to the stage of treatment, and that the latter no longer needs further explanation. However, explanations will be made within the framework of the dialogue process which remains a firm option.

[Second unidentified speaker] It is true that the head of state's address included the aforementioned policy. It seems that the policy is based on an essential idea, namely that the new authority is convinced that the political crisis could only be resolved through dialogue and the participation of all the national political forces, without exception.

This statement restores hope after the effective parties' boycott of the national conference, the possible effects of which on the authority's position was feared by many people. However, it has become clear now that the political line declared by the head of state when he was only defense minister represents a strong and firm non-circumstantial conviction. This means now is the time for serious and real work with the parties. We now have to wait for the reactions of political forces.

[First speaker] That is clear from the head of state's mention of the parties to the dialogue which boycotted the conference, describing them as hesitant. This means that he was careful to maintain the dialogue bridges with those parties. He also gave assurance regarding the future of the dialogue when he said: We are determined to continue the dialogue in earnest, and earnest dialogue will inevitably be rewarded. The head of state made a commitment to returning to a democratic electoral path.

[Second speaker] As it is known, one of the fundamental issues in the dialogue generally is the participation of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. We are aware that before the address, officials confirmed that contacts made with the FIS to achieve that aim produced positive and encouraging results. The speech confirmed officially but indirectly that that group was interested in serious dialogue as much as other parties when Zeroual talked about national political forces without exception.

We note that the head of state used the term political forces instead of political parties, maybe to remove obstacles in the way of the expected dialogue. Naturally, the serious dialogue mentioned by the head of state and demanded by the political forces would require a host of measures.

[First speaker] Although the head of state did not announce them in his address as most people expected, we conclude that these measures would inevitably be adopted within the overall framework of the dialogue. Generally, these measures will concern the state of emergency and the concurrent events and the aftermath of the security situation.

Naturally, holding a dialogue without exceptions and linking it to the previously announced contacts with effective figures representing the FIS, will necessarily lead to adopting measures regarding that tendency. The constitution authorizes the head of state to make appropriate decisions to ensure the success of the defined policy and the clear plan in dealing with the political crisis which Zeroual stressed in his address. Without doubt, the sooner all the sides work for the restoration of security, stability and peace of mind the sooner the aforementioned measures would be adopted and the crisis would be resolved. [passage omitted]

[Second speaker] The new head of state is now pledging to make efforts to implement the economic reforms and carry them out in practice. The result expected from the reforms is to rid the economy of administrative and other obstacles, remove the monopolies exercised by the state over the economic process and provide opportunity to public and private sector economic initiatives. Indeed, we shall find that many people would say that there is nothing new in this and that it has been repeated since the debate on economic reforms began but the same problems still exist. This is absolutely true and the reason is very simple, namely the reforms have never been carried out. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Minister Says 23 'Terrorists' Extradited to Egypt

NC0902142894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that 23 terrorists have been extradited to Egypt from a number of countries and that there are agreements on the extradition of criminals that the Interior Ministry has concluded with these countries.

The minister added that negotiations are continuing with some other countries to extradite terrorists who have fled there. He said that the Interior Ministry stresses that it is providing the necessary protection to anyone who gives information or statements that help expose any terrorist operations or leads to the arrest of terrorists.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition of stolen items in the al-Jizah governorate today, al-Alfi said that the various police organs' training has been developed and their weapons modernized in order to confront the crimes and protect domestic security and stability.

Minister Comments on Remarks of 'Terrorist' Groups

NC0802161794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has criticized the statements issued by terrorist groups through foreign news agencies following any incident. He described these statements as a sign of bankruptcy, noting that they come in reaction to the constant security campaigns and the tightening of the noose around the terrorists.

In remarks he made today after attending a ceremony on training day for the Central Security Forces in al-Jizah, al-Alfi noted that terrorist group members are criminals who do not enjoy recognition. He stressed that the initiative is now in the hands of the security agencies, which receive high-level training, maintain planning and coordination, and achieve constant success.

The interior minister noted that the statements released by the terrorist groups are the result of the strong and successful blows by the security agencies against their dens and that their statements are mere noise designed to show that they exist.

Al-Alfi pointed out that there were security shortcomings in the attack on the showroom owned by al-Sayyid Yahya, the main witness in the case of the attempted assassination of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. He noted that an investigation is now being conducted by inspection teams from the Ministry of Interior to determine who was responsible for the security shortcomings.

Asked if some of those who carried out the attack were arrested, al-Alfi asked to delay the announcement of arrests of any suspects, adding that the Interior Ministry will issue a statement when the time comes to maintain the confidentiality of information for the sake of the public good.

In response to a question on tightening security around citizens who give out information to security agencies, al-Alfi emphasized that those who give information are under protection, although this is done secretly. He added: If a mistake has been made in one area, this does not mean that mistakes will continue.

Asked about the bomb that exploded yesterday in front of the Central Bank branch in Ramsis Square, the interior minister said that it was a trivial thing done to prove that the terrorists are still present.

Asked about the security situation in Asyut, the interior minister stressed that the situation is completely calm there and that there is a security presence and that security agencies are constantly being modernized. The interior minister referred to the regrettable incident that claimed the life of Brigadier General 'Umar Hasan Mustafa the day before yesterday, adding that it happened because of a personal error by martyr Brig. Gen. 'Umar, who used his private car on his day off without any guards accompanying him.

This morning the interior minister attended a ceremony marking the training day of the Central Security Forces in al-Jizah, where he inspected the living quarters of conscripts and inaugurated a water project. He attended some exercises demonstrating how to confront terrorists and break into their dens using modern equipment. The ceremony was attended by Major General Samir Fu'ad, first assistant to the interior minister and commander of the Central Security Forces; Major General 'Abd-al-Wahid 'Atallah, director general of the al-Jizah zone; and a number of senior officials from the Central Security Forces and the Interior Ministry.

Militants Tell Citizens To Remove Money From Banks

NC0802171594 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 8 (AFP)—The main Moslem militant group here on Tuesday called on Egyptians to pull their money out of banks within two weeks and claimed a bomb attack on a branch in Cairo.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which has waged a bloody campaign against the secular government of President Husni Mubarak, said it planted the bomb which exploded outside a bank here Monday night. The bomb went off after the bank closed to avoid causing any injuries, said the statement which was sent to AFP.

The group has urged tourists and foreign investors to quit the country, saying it is stepping up its violent campaign following the killing of seven of its members by the security forces last week.

The militants are trying to cripple the Egyptian economy as part of their campaign to bring down the Mubarak government and install an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

The group said Egyptians should withdraw all their cash from Egyptian banks within two weeks, and Monday's blast was "part of al-Jama'ah's fight against the regime."

Almost 300 people have died since the fundamentalists began their campaign two years ago, and the money-spinning tourist industry has been brought to its knees.

Musa, Israeli Minister Meet, Discuss Issues

NC0902120494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Shulamit Aloni, Israeli minister of science, culture, and communications, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The Israeli minister said that the talks dealt with the relations between the two countries and the means to promote them in the fields of arts and scientific research. She added: We hope that a comprehensive peace will soon be established so that cooperation will be developed in the various domains.

The Israeli minister noted that she was briefed by 'Amr Musa on Egypt's efforts to advance the peace process. She expressed her satisfaction with the role Egypt is playing in achieving peace between the Arab countries and Israel.

Minister Reiterates Role of Security Forces

NC0802165494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stressed that the security organs serve and protect everybody, both Egyptians and foreigners. He said that the threats made by the outlaws will not frighten the police organs, which have decided to confront and chase them firmly and decisively everywhere and at all times.

In his meeting with the press delegation accompanying the Austrian president, who is presently visiting Cairo, the Egyptian interior minister said that the security organs always have the initiative and are completely ready to confront the remnants of terrorism. He noted that the perpetrators of the incidents carried out by terrorists have been arrested and many crimes that were planned have been foiled.

Al-Alfi also noted that a large quantity of weapons and equipment were used in these operations, stressing that the crimes being perpetrated now are a reaction meant only to prove that they still exist. He added: We have complete information about them.

In reply to a question about the countries that support and sponsor the terrorist groups, the interior minister said that a number of countries are supporting and sponsoring the terrorists but he refused to divulge these countries' names, saying that there are diplomatic contacts to sign security agreements on the extradition of these elements.

The Egyptian interior minister denied what the human rights report said about torture in Egyptian prisons. He stressed that Egypt is a state where the rule of law prevails, which has an ancient civilization, and which is among the leading countries that care about human rights inside and outside prisons. He said that these criminals inflict injuries on themselves as part of a plan to terrorize the police commands and officers. He noted that the human rights report was only concerned with the protection of defendants but did not mention the victims of their operations. He added that the perpetrators of many crimes had been apprehended and found to have weapons and explosives and were brought to trial, while many policemen had been killed in defense of innocent citizens, legitimacy, and law and order.

Hasan al-Alfi stressed that cases of torture in Egypt, the state where the rule of law prevails, are not closed because of the statute of limitations. He said: If there are individual mistakes or excesses in the application of the law, then those making these mistakes and excesses are brought to account and punished in accordance with the law.

Hasan al-Alfi described the terrorist organizations as gangs that violate the teachings and tenets of religion, adding that the crimes solved confirm that the police are in control.

In reply to a question about the terrorists' names and leaders, the interior minister said that the terrorist groups' leaders are abroad and are known to the security organs. They also recruit people in the country in the name of religion, which is innocent of them.

The minister stressed that these groups' objective is to ruin development and stability in Egypt, adding that these terrorist groups do not exist in Egypt alone but that many countries are targeted by terrorism.

On the nationality of these terrorist elements, he said that they are Egyptians and their leaders abroad are recruiting some Egyptians and non-Egyptian under false and baseless pretexts.

In reply to another question about the possibility of having a dialogue with the terrorist groups, the interior minister rejected the idea of a dialogue with these terrorists groups. He asked: A dialogue with whom? With criminals? A dialogue with gangs?

He added that a dialogue with them is rejected because they are not Muslims and have no official, constitutional, or legal status and they are dealt with according to the law. He stressed his intention to continue to liquidate these elements and to bring them to court.

Hasan al-Alfi said that there are no religiously based parties in Egypt and that no organization or society that is based on religion and practices political activity is recognized.

The interior minister appealed to the foreign press to convey the true picture of the situation in Egypt and to expose these terrorist groups' practices.

Efforts To Settle Bosnia Situation To Intensify

NC0802161194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Egypt's permanent UN envoy Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi has told our radio correspondent that Egypt, in its capacity as chairman of the Arab group at the United Nations for this month, will intensify its efforts and that of the other Arab and Islamic countries in order to find a settlement for the crisis in Bosnia.

He said that the Arab and Islamic countries have decided to intensify their efforts and do all they can to have the embargo on the sale of weapons to Bosnia lifted following the barbaric crimes committed by the Serbs in Bosnia. He added that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali is trying to persuade NATO to stage air strikes against the Serbs' positions in Bosnia.

Article Reviews Continuation, Cycle of Violence

NC0902112094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 9

[Article by Salah-al-Din Hafiz: "All This Bloody Violence ... Why?"]

[Text] We look today with great anxiety at the continuing sequence of bloody violence in our country following the extremist organizations' violation of the homeland's sanctity. They have started to spread havoc and to kill and assassinate without any legitimate support for such actions.

This bloody violence continues and constitutes a growing danger. Some people claim there is no solution to the phenomena of extremism and terrorist organizations other than absolute repression, even if others are hurt in this confrontation, and that there is no hope of eliminating extremists and terrorists except through more emergency laws, even if this disrupts the democratic process.

We stop at two fundamental observations while we deal with the issue of the bloody violence and blind extremism that threaten the homeland's security and stability:

The first observation concerns looking at the situation we are dealing with—bloody violence. Things are now at a critical stage in the lethal clash with all society, not just the government alone or the state's authority on its own.

We saw extremism grow and prosper slowly and over many years of neglect and slackness—at some times—and tacit encouragement and turning a blind eye—at other times—such that yesterday's cub has turned into a predatory beast, which is devouring those closest to it who sponsored and fed him only yesterday.

What do figures say now about the victims devoured by the beast of bloody violence. Confirmed reports say that around 200 people were killed in Egypt in 1993 compared, for example, with 2,000 in Algeria. Algeria and Egypt after it are witnessing the most violent clash between the extremist groups that use Islamic slogans as a cover and the state authority and society's democratic and enlightened forces.

It is useful here to refer to the latest report issued by the Egyptian Human Rights Committee on the signs of bloody violence in Egypt. It frankly states that the armed organizations belonging to political Islam are practicing terrorist activities and bloody violence, violating man's primary fundamental right—the right to live—in an unprecedented way.

Proceeding with our reading of this documented report, we find that 1993 saw escalating bloody violence that left 207 dead. This figure is more than the total number of victims killed in the previous three years: In 1990-1992, only 139 people were killed.

The Egyptian Human Rights Committee's information stresses that "these armed Islamic groups bear the major responsibility for all the acts of violence seen in the country" and that 59 of the police victims were killed willfully as part of acts of direct physical liquidation, which these groups carried out despite the police halting their physical liquidation of group members last March.

The report adds that the number of victims of physical liquidation and random killings attributed to Islamic political groups is 118, when the police killed only eight members of the Islamic groups.

Figures and statistics are important, but reading an analysis of these statistics, understanding their significance, and specifying what they indicate are also important. What do the indicators say regarding the bloody violence?

1. The acts of violence, murder, and terrorism exercised by the groups have witnessed a serious development in the use of modern technology, such as explosive devices, booby-trapped cars, timed bombs, and explosions by remote control to cause the biggest losses, particularly among innocent people.

For example, 1993 witnessed 12 terrorist operations in which huge explosives were used. Nine of these were designed to cause indiscriminate killing. The explosions left 22 people dead, including 19 innocent citizens, two foreign tourists, and one police officer.

2. Assassination and physical liquidation attempts against state figures such as politicians, ministers, and security officers have also increased considerably. The most significant of these attempts targeted the prime minister, the information minister, and the interior minister. Although these attempts failed, they left 70 security men dead. Some 51 of these operations were designed to physically liquidate policemen. The Asyut Governorate—the largest arena of bloody violence—takes the lead in assassination attempts. Some 57 policemen have been assassinated by terrorists there.

3. The groups concentrated their terrorist operations first on the police and the innocent Muslim and Christian citizens and then on tourism and foreign tourists, which they targeted with their bloody violence to undermine the country's main source of hard currency. This has reflected in losses of $2-$3 billion a year.

4. The last indicator is that if these groups have partially succeeded in their indiscriminate murder operations, premeditated assassinations, and bloody explosions in public places to shake national security and spread alarm among the people, they have failed in word and deed to achieve any long-term political objective. On the contrary. They have aroused the public and stirred up the silent majority against their crimes and terrorist operations, which have caused financial loss and alarm. The people, even among the moderate Islamic trends and former sympathizers, have started to take an active role in confronting the growing bloody violence and armed terrorism side by side with the state authorities. Everyone has discovered that the beast of terrorism does not target just one government official or police officer, but the security of the country and the life of every citizen.

The state, with all its powers, and society, with all its sectors and its ideological, social, and political forces, should coordinate their activity to deprive these groups of the sources of their power and isolate them from their bases. We must prevent these groups from exploiting the stockpile of crises surrounding us—be they complicated economic and social problems or chronic political and ideological problems—whether this is represented in poverty, unemployment, and corruption or in extremism, frustration, despair, and the closing of the doors of hope to the youth.

How could we benefit from the state of alert and vigilance in society against the cycle of bloody violence, armed terrorism, and indiscriminate killing? How could we isolate the perpetrators of this violence and prevent them from exploiting the people's rancor and indignation generated by knotty economic and social problems?

First, we must all reiterate the principles and agree on the need to establish our great national objective. We must truthfully admit that despite the complicated and pressing problems, reform and change should not be made by force, violence, or terrorism. These should be carried out through sound democratic means based on free dialogue, accepting opposing ideas, and respecting everyone's will and opposition stances before those of the support, along with respect for the full rights of individuals.

When the channels for such a dialogue are open, those of extremism and violence are diminished. These channels are the fruit of the absence of dialogue, the silencing of the other voices, and the disdain for the ideas of opposition—politically, ideologically, and religiously. Again, we affirm that resorting to pressing emergency laws, as some demand, is condemned, because it represents a real obstacle to dialogue and democracy.

While some call for burying the current democratic atmosphere, particularly the freedom of opinion and expression, urging the authorities to enact more extraordinary laws, justifying the expansion of the use of the emergency law, President Husni Mubarak, the head of the supreme authority, insists on rejecting all this, resisting the temptation of the instigators, adhering to the democratic course, and resorting to the Constitution and law even if this costs time in the struggle against terrorism and the immediate wiping out of armed violence. This is what the president stressed during his meeting with writers and intellectuals at the international book fair last week in response to the claims and calls of the instigators.

What do we do in light of these principles? Our effort leads us by necessity to work through several principal routes:

Because the security policy, despite its decisive importance, is not enough alone to resist the violence and armed terrorism, the alternative is an all-out social effort. This initially demands efforts to end or reduce the factors of poverty, indignation, and despair, which the extremist groups exploit. The effort can be made by reviewing the state's existing socio-economic plan and amending its goals and methods in line with the demands of the vast majority and achieving their interests.

There is a need to open channels for comprehensive national dialogue and expand the circles of opinion and consultation to include—in deed, not in word—all the legitimate and true political and intellectual forces that express the people's clear interests.

Any dialogue that does not include all these forces will fail before it starts—notice, for example, the national dialogue conference experiment in Algeria—because it excludes some forces and deprives some groups of their rights. These groups will remain a source of anger, indignation, rebellion, and even extremism, facilitating the use of violence.

There is a need to energize civic society's political, religious, and cultural institutions, particularly the parties, the trade unions, the universities, al-Azhar, the research and study centers, and the press to play a more effective and influential role in society in an atmosphere of freedom of opinion, action, and movement. This perhaps demands a review of the laws restricting the activity of civic society, because the government authority alone, however strong it may be, cannot succeed without the help of the strong, effective popular forces.

The most essential issue is the need to introduce concrete reforms in the famous three-way system—education, information, and culture. These institutions formulate opinion, develop character, and raise generations from childhood. We still notice with great concern the infiltration of the ideas of fanaticism, extremism, backwardness, and superficiality through the channels of this system, helping to develop the mind in a direction opposed to the country's interests and prepare the popular ground, particularly among the illiterate, semi-educated, poor, and oppressed, to accept religious fanaticism, sectarian hatred, and despicable racism.

If we add to all this the incitement against the existing democratic system; the efforts to restrict freedom of opinion and expression in their various forms, particularly freedom of the press and information; the casting of doubt on the honesty and independence of the judiciary; attempts to justify corruption and deviation; and demands to resort to emergency laws, the issue will by necessity become serious, if not deadly.

This is what we do not want for the present and future of this country.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Holds Talks With Former SPLA Rebels

EA0802162594 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has confirmed the revolution's seriousness in implementing its sincere aims in the southern states in terms of peace and development and creating better living conditions. His excellency stated this during a meeting in his office at the Friendship Hall this morning with a delegation of representatives of returnees from the rebel movement.

The delegates confirmed their support for the revolution's aims and programs designed to achieve a real peace, saying the revolution was the dynamo of economic, social, and political development. The delegation dwelt on the rebel movement's intransigence and frivolity on the peace issue, as had become clear through the Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Abuja talks. The members of the delegation added that they would play their part in all the country's issues and participate in the political and social aspects. They affirmed that the plan for redividing the states would lead to the achievement of a comprehensive peace by widening the scope of participation.

Government Denies Reports on Operations in East, West

EA0802192094 Khartoum SUNA in French 1631 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Feb (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government on 8 February categorically denied the unfounded accusations contained in a communique issued by the U.S. State Department on military operations in the Eastern and Western Equatoria regions.

In the communique issued Tuesday in Khartoum in response to the U.S. accusations, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry stressed the United States double standards, noting that while the United States was referring to imaginary military operations in southern Sudan, it maintained total silence on Israel's deadly operations in the occupied territories. The communique stressed that the military operations in southern Sudan were nothing but fighting between rebel factions and that the people's armed forces only fired in cases of legitimate defense.

The communique also confirmed the commitment of the Sudanese Government to all the agreements on humanitarian aid, including those signed with the United Nations, which stipulate the facilitation of the transport of relief material to war victims in southern Sudan.

The United States' support for the rebel movement and for its springboard and these unfounded accusations were phenomena which could encourage the rebel movement to escalate the war and to reject all initiatives designed to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem in southern Sudan, the communique said.

Foreign Ministry Statement Condemns Sarajevo Events

EA0802193094 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Feb (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry yesterday issued a statement on the massacre recently perpetrated by the Serbs in Sarajevo, in which over 100 Bosnian Muslim citizens fell victim. The statement condemend the heinous crime and reaffirmed Sudan's (?denunciation) of the failure and conspiracies of the great powers.

The statement condemned the UN Security Council's negative stance towards the massacre. It expressed Sudan's concern over the international community's silence in response to the violation of human rights in Bosnia. The statement said that what the Serbs were doing in Bosnia was unprecedented since what the Nazis did during the Hitlerite era and that the UN's failure was exactly like the League of Nations' failure to stop the crimes of the Nazis, which lost it the confidence of the peoples of the world (?at that time).

The statement appealed to the peace-loving forces and all states to confront this inhuman (?whirlpool), to stand firmly by the Muslim people of Bosnia, to pressure the Security Council into discharging its duty to protect the Bosnian people's legitimate rights and lift the arms embargo imposed on the Bosnian people to enable them to defend themselves, strike at the Serbian forces to destroy their military concentrations and to immediately evict them from the Bosnian territories.

Foreign Ministry Official on Human Rights, Bosnia

EA0802163594 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Mr. 'Umar Baridu, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, reviewed at the ministry's forum today the statement issued by the African, Caribbean, and Pacific group of states—the Lome Convention states—in reply to the statement issued by the European Union accusing Sudan of human rights violations. His excellency praised the attitude of the Lome Convention states in asking the European Union to be patient and to respond to Sudan's invitation to send a joint fact-finding mission. The Lome Convention states said the convention would lose credibility if it let itself be exploited as a tool to increase the difficulties faced by any of its peoples.

Mr. Baridu also reviewed the activities of Sudan's delegation during the meetings of the OAU ministerial council held recently in Addis Ababa.

His excellency also described the massacre perpetrated by the Serbian forces against defenseless civilians in Sarajevo as a hideous crime that shook the pillars of the accords of international legality and highlighted the weakness of the new world order. Baridu affirmed that the great powers, the members of the Security Council, had badly failed in their efforts to solve the issue of Bosnia, saying that this failure would diminish the UN's importance. He said Sudan had issued a statement demanding the lifting of the siege on Sarajevo and for the Muslim Bosnian people to be allowed to obtain weapons to defend themselves.

Opposition Blames Government for Aiding 'Terrorists'

NC0802162294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese opposition al-Ummah Party issued a statement in Cairo today holding the Sudanese Government fully responsible for opening the country's territory to terrorists and noting, in this connection, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry's decision to grant citizenship to members of all Islamic groups.

The party announced that the Sudanese Government is responsible for last Saturday's assault against the residence and company headquarters of a Saudi businessman living in Sudan. Several security personnel were injured in that incident.

The statement warned the Sudanese Government of the consequences of playing patron to terrorists.

Government Warplane Bombs Village, Refugee Camp

AB0802225894 Paris AFP in English 2242 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Pageri, Sudan, Feb 8 (AFP)—A Sudanese government warplane bombed a village and a refugee camp Tuesday [8 February], seriously wounding at least one woman in their fourth air strike against the rebel-held south in five days. Nearly 70,000 people have fled camps along Sudan's southern border with Uganda since the bombings intensified in the past two weeks, United Nations officials said.

Sudan's hard-line Islamic government launched one of its biggest military offensives against the mainly Christian and animist southern rebels last month, relief sources said.

Khartoum, however, has denied the bombings and blamed rival rebel factions for fighting in the south, where UN officials say millions need food and emergency aid. But reporters who visited Pageri on Tuesday had to dive for cover as a lumbering Soviet-built Antonov military plane dropped four bombs shortly before noon (1000 GMT) on the village.

About half of Pageri's 10,000 residents sought refuge there after being forced to flee their homes by the civil war that has ravaged the south for more than a decade. Minutes later the Antonov dropped another two bombs which fell harmlessly close to the nearby Aswa camp, sheltering 21,000 displaced people.

Aswa and Pageri are less than 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Ugandan border.

Western diplomats said the rebels had no aircraft and the Antonov must have been a government bomber.

The United States government strongly condemned Khartoum for two air strikes Friday near camps in the same area sheltering hundreds of thousands of displaced people. There were no casualties, but Sally Burnheim of the UN Operation Lifeline Sudan said 18 people had been killed and another 17 wounded in a third bombing raid Monday on Parajok, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of the camps, where some of the displaced people who fled had gathered for safety.

Khartoum has banned relief flights to several destinations along the Ugandan border where 200,000 displaced people are gathered. "If we can't reach the people in need, there's going to be a colossal disaster," Burnheim said.

Bullets crackled as they exploded when flames engulfed the ruins of one of Pageri's largest buildings, which was directly hit. Youths darted into the building and ran out seconds later clutching Kalashnikov rifles which they had saved from the fire.

Mario Muor, head of the relief wing of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), dismissed suggestions that Pageri housed a rebel base. He said the building contained arms and ammunition because it was "a military police station."

But few women and children were seen in Pageri on Tuesday. Most of the panic-stricken inhabitants who streamed out of their beehive-shaped grass-thatched huts were young men. Many carried Kalashnikovs.

A women hit by shrapnel in both legs was carried bleeding from the burning ruins of a house and driven to a makeshift hospital in Aswa. Doctors said she would die if not evacuated to neighbouring Kenya for a blood transfusion within 24 hours.

Local sources said SPLA leader John Garang was near Pageri to chair a meeting of top commanders Tuesday, but there was no confirmation.

The government recaptured most major southern towns in a major offensive launched a few months after the SPLA split into two warring factions in 1991.

Muor accused the splinter group led by Riak Machar of collaborating with Khartoum, a claim Machar has repeatedly denied.

Kuwait

UN's Ekeus Notes Trip Results, Departs

LD0702222294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the United Nation Special Commission [UNSCOM] in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said that the international embargo imposed on the Iraqi regime for invading the State of Kuwait would not be lifted now.

In a news conference he held this evening before leaving the country, Ekeus added that there was nothing to this effect on the UN agenda at present.

The UN commission chairman expressed his full conviction that most of the Baghdad regime's military capabilities had been identified and destroyed.

He added that the commission was confident that all long-range missiles, which remained in the possession of the Iraqi regime after the Kuwait liberation war, had been destroyed. The special plants for producing those weapons had also been identified and destroyed.

Ekeus pointed out that UN inspectors found large quantities of chemical weapons that were, in reality, rendered inactive. He added that the commission still had before it the mission of completing the destruction of the chemical weapons in Iraq.

Concerning the Iraqi regime's biological weapons arsenal, Ekeus said in the news conference that the commission was relatively confident that all the essential elements had been treated, but was not fully satisfied, and that the commission was slightly worried about chemical weapons.

Ekeus pointed out that, according to the cease-fire in the State of Kuwait liberation war, the UN commission faced two aims. These were: Installing a long-term surveillance system on the Iraqi regime's armament program, and making sure that that regime would not attempt to obtain forbidden weapons. [passage omitted]

Ekeus went on to say that he briefed the country's officials on the progress that the commission achieved, and also listened to remarks in this respect.

He added that the senior officials in Kuwait also briefed him on their evaluation of the situation in the region. He said that that would help the commission to a great extent in its work.

Court Affirms Competence for Trying Royalty

NC0802205194 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Feb 8 (AFP)—The Kuwaiti criminal court Tuesday threw out an allegation by defence lawyers that it was not competent to rule in the case of a member of the ruling royal family and four co-defendants accused of embezzlement.

Rejecting the charge, acting state prosecutor Sultan Bu-Jarwah adjourned the trial until March 22 to give the lawyers time to answer the prosecution case, judicial sources said.

The five defendants, including Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-Sabah of the royal family, are accused of having embezzled up to 100 million dollars from the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC).

Shaykh 'Ali, who was oil and finance minister in the cabinet formed in exile in Saudi Arabia after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990, pleaded not guilty when the trial opened on January 18.

Judge Bu-Jarwah rejected the defence's allegation that the trial had a "political" dimension. He said the prosecution was judging the defendants "not according to their social or political affiliations, but on the basis of equality before the law."

The other four accused in the trial are Kuwaitis Hasan Qabazard and 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Badr, Jordanian Nasim Muhsin and Briton Tim Stafford.

Defence lawyers argued that the case should be handled by a supreme court of five members, in accordance with a royal decree of 1990 which ruled that any minister accused of crimes must appear before such a supreme body.

However, parliament abrogated the decree on January 11 on the grounds that it "obstructed" justice and "protected ministers," particularly in connection with financial scandals which came to light after Kuwait was liberated in February 1991.

Saudi Arabia

Editorial Decries 'Procrastination' of West in Bosnia

PM0802120094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Bosnia and West's Civilization Claims"]

[Excerpts] The recent massacre in Sarajevo clearly exposes the extent of the Western states' collusion through procrastination and by delaying a decision to stop the criminal actions against the Muslim people of Bosnia.

"Protect us, or let us defend ourselves!" This is the message the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government is trying to convey to the international community. The message is urgent and what makes it even more urgent is the recent massacre in Sarajevo.

Everyone knows the locations of the heavy artillery killing the innocent in Sarajevo. These posts can be seen with ordinary binoculars from the center of the Bosnian capital. There exist the deadly guns seen on television screens by hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. Despite all this, we are told that the United Nation has launched an investigation to determine the source of the shell which killed 55 people while they were buying their daily food. The investigation will be similar to scores of investigations conducted before. That is, it will produce no results, or it might produce a result but the international community will then hasten to put it quietly away on the top shelf.

Everyone knows who is in control of these deadly guns. The peoples of the world watch the murderers giving interviews on television screen every evening. UN diplomats embrace the same murderers in cocktail parties and in diplomatic corridors. Despite all this, we are told that the United Nations is planning to conduct an investigation to identify the perpetrator. [passage omitted]

The tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina has become one of the questions that are of historic significance. That is, the questions which expose the true positions by stripping the world order of its claims to civilization and proving that it is based on respect for force, and force alone.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina we see the real Europe. And in it the present world order, which is supposed to be based on respect for international law, has been exposed. So rescuing Bosnia-Herzegovina is not merely rescuing a war-torn state from suffering and possible extinction: The question raised now is rescuing the international organizations, especially the United Nations, and rescuing the future of international relations throughout the globe.

Yemen

Salih Calls for Unity, Ending Disputes

JN0902085994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, accompanied by House of Representatives Speaker Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, met today with the brother representatives of the Shabwah Governorate expanded popular gathering comprising tribal chiefs, society figures, intellectuals, and representatives of party and political groupings, popular and professional organizations, and youth, military men, and others.

The representatives submitted to the brother president the results of the Shabwah Governorate expanded popular gathering and the statement issued by the gathering which met under the slogan "For the Sake of A United And Effective Stand of the Governorate's Sons To Defend Unity, Democracy, Justice, and Social Development."

The brother Presidential Council chairman spoke at the meeting. He praised the national role played by the sons of Shabwah Governorate in the march of the Yemeni revolution, the national movement, and the confrontation of the colonialist presence and the imamate regime. He praised the results of the expanded gathering of the sons of the Shabwah governorate and the positive decisions they adopted. He said these results embody a high sense of national responsibility and demonstrate a dynamic militant spirit that is committed to the homeland and eager to safeguard its unity and democratic course.

The brother chairman said: The most important achievement of this gathering is the unity of ranks of the sons of the governorate, irrespective of their party affiliations. He added: This is a great gain for this governorate which suffered much, whether before or after the independence. Its sons have offered convoys of martyrs for the sake of independence. They also offered many of its elite men as defenseless victims of the regrettable political disputes.

The brother president added: Our target has been and continues to be that 22 May 1990 will be the decisive date for ending all these disputes and tragedies from which our Yemeni people have suffered much. He added that Yemeni unity is the framework for settling differences. It is the fence within whose boundaries the Yemeni family is reunited. It is the balm that soothes all the wounds of the past. The brother chairman added: However, it is regrettable that political quarrels and private interests seek to sully this beautiful picture of unity and to assassinate the joy our people feel as they proceed toward a new era where ranks are closed, hatred disappears and all work together to build the homeland, carry out development, construct roads and schools, hospitals, educational institutions, and spread services throughout Yemen.

The brother chairman said: However, it is regrettable that some try to obstruct this so that the benefits of unity will not reach all the people who will then realize the importance and value of unity in their lives.

The brother chairman said it is important to unite the efforts of the sons of the Shabwah governorate so that they work for the interest of the governorate and the homeland, and benefit from the lessons of the past. The past is replete with unfortunate lessons which should be kept in mind so that they are not repeated in our lives.

The brother chairman said: Unity is the means to achieve a better future. Preserving it is a sacred national duty, and the alternative to unity will be destructive for the entire homeland. He added: All are dutybound to safeguard unity because it will prevent the return to the past where partitioning prevailed. The preservation of unity takes place through sincere and fruitful action in the field and through the decisive confrontation of all those who seek to harm unity.

Addressing the audience, the sons of Shabwah Governorate, the brother chairman said: I highly value the results you have attained in your gathering. We support them because they embody a national spirit that remains committed to the constants which cannot be relinquished. We support all your legitimate demands and needs, whether in the field of services or in other fields. We will do our best to meet them within the available capabilities of the state. We are also in tune with the sentiments you have expressed that Shabwah should never again be the scapegoat or the arena for political disputes. We are confident that our homeland's future will be promising, God willing. We believe that the course of dialogue and understanding is the best approach for settling matters and disagreements. He added: Party, provincial, or religious biogtry will only cause tragedies.

The brother chairman said: We were united on 22 May, and we will safeguard our homeland's unity with all the power we have. Unity brings accord, peace of mind, establishes an atmopshere of amity and fraternity, responds to the people's needs and protects their rights. Unity means safety. Without it, we will become fragmented into more than one entity.

The brother chairman referred to the incident of the impounding of the large shipment of espionage, monitoring,and military telecommunications equipment which was recently confiscated by the competent authorities. He said that attempts were made to bring this shipment into the country illegally, a shipment which was impounded by the competent bodies. He said: In whose interest was this, and who paid for it? He added: Where are the regulations, the laws, and the conscience on whose basis we should account for what we do? We want to employ funds for the good of the Yemeni people, for developing the homeland, entrenching their unity, and not to harm the people and destroy the homeland. We must learn lessons from the past, and resort to reason, and not be influenced by whims and suspicions which only benefit Yemen's enemies. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Cause of 'Political Crisis'

NC0902065194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has attributed the cause of the current political crisis in his country to the rivalry for power, which has affected the flow of foreign investment into Yemen. He denied that the worsening crisis can be blamed on external factors.

In statements to AL-AHRAM published Wednesday, he noted that charges that his country is providing refuge for terrorists might be prompted by some Afghan Arabs' infiltration of Yemen. He said that their infiltration takes place secretly and without the security authorities' consent.

He pointed out that Yemen has managed to normalize its relations with some of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries and is still pursuing normalization with other countries so that these ties will return to their level preceding the crisis of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

He called for not using the new oil oil discoveries in his country as pretext for contemplating partition, otherwise its wealth will turn into a misfortune instead of a blessing.

He said that clouds still loom Arab-Iraqi ties and that further strenuous efforts and essential amendments to the Arab League charter are needed.

On Yemen's stand on the Middle East market, the Yemeni foreign minister said his country is not inclined to end the boycott of Israel before a comprehensive and just peace is established in the region.

Al-Bid Explains Delay in Signing Political Document

PM0802160494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 94 pp1, 4

[Khayrallah Khayrallah report: "Al-Bid Tells AL-HAYAH: The Socialist Party Is Committed to Signing the Accord Document But It Wants 'Real' Guarantees"]

[Excerpt] London—'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council deputy chairman and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has, in a statement to AL-HAYAH, reaffirmed the "need" for signing the Pledge and Accord Document approved by the Yemeni parties. He saw it as a "document of national consensus" and said that it "complements" the unity agreement signed on 22 May 1990. But al-Bid, who was answering a written question sent to him by AL-HAYAH about the reasons for the delay in signing the document, pointed out that his party links signing the document to "real and sufficient guarantees for the implementation of its provisions." In what seemed like a warning, he stressed that "history will not turn back," a clear indication that the YSP refuses to return to the situation which prevailed before he chose seclusion in Aden since 19 August.

Following is the text of al-Bid's statement explaining the reasons which have delayed the signing of the agreement:

"First of all I wish to emphasize that the YSP considers the Pledge and Accord Document approved by the National Dialogue Committee to be a document representing the common vision of all the vital forces interested in protecting unity, consolidating the democratic experiment, and building a modern state in Yemen.

"Having been endorsed by the parties to the dialogue and received widespread popular support, it is now a document of national consensus in the sense that it has become the document of all the good people in Yemen who, without doubt, are the vast majority of the population. No views, positions, or agreements on issues pertaining to the Yemeni homeland and people have received such vast support as has this important agreement which, we in the YSP believe, complements the unity agreement signed on 22 May 1990.

"That document (the agreement) was signed by two Yemeni national parties, namely the YSP and the General People's Congress, but the Pledge and Accord Document was endorsed by all the parties operating in the Yemeni national arena, and it in effect reaffirms protection of the unity agreed on 22 May 1990 and emphasizes the importance of building the unity state, which was not built during the transitional period and should be built now, with its roots reaching all the depth and width of the homeland and its edifice rising into the skies. That is why the YSP, proceeding from its national unionist outlook and its real interest in unity and democracy, reaffirms the need for signing this important national document which has been called the Pledge and Accord Document.

"Second, while emphasizing the importance of this document, seeing it as a document which heralds a new era, putting an end to the era and vestiges of secession and partition, the YSP is interested in this document finding its way to serious, speedy, practical implementation so that all aspects of life may stabilize. Therefore, and in light of its assessment of its past experience, it underscores—and it has every right to do so—the need for real and sufficient guarantees for the implementation of that document. The YSP now reasserts this point which it has been emphasizing since the beginning of the crisis and since the presentation of the known 18 points. When these 18 points were submitted, we underlined the importance of linking the acceptance of these points to commencement of their implementation and the provision of sufficient guarantees for that, including the party's proposal at the time that the dialogue be widened to include all influential forces in the Yemeni homeland, which later were represented in the National Dialogue Committee.

"That is why we continue to reaffirm what we had stressed along with all the forces really and genuinely interested in resolving the current crisis and eliminating all the obstacles threatening unity and democracy and their continuation.

"Third, in light of what we have just explained, we should proceed to sign the document with the presence of guarantees for its implementation. Anyone who rejects that in fact stands against the will of the people. The YSP will always uphold the will of the people, the good people of Yemen who are the vast majority of our fine people, or rather the entire struggling Yemeni people.

"Fourth, on the question of who is impeding the signing of the document, it is the party placing obstacles in the way of the provision of guarantees for the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document which, as I said, has been unanimously approved by all the people. Those are in fact exposing their true intentions of rejecting the agreement and insisting on putting their personal narrow interests before the interests of the people. What is important is that history will not turn back."

Meanwhile, Salim Salih Muhammad, Presidential Council member and YSP assistant secretary general, has stated that "the YSP welcomes the conclusions reached by the Dialogue Committee of the Political Forces during its meeting in Sanaa the day before yesterday." He declared that the "party totally accepts the committee's decision naming the Jordanian capital Amman as the venue for the final signing of the Pledge and Accord Document." [passage omitted]

Military Commanders Discuss Crisis, Stress Unity

JN0902084494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Military Committee, led by brother Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of the General Staff and committee head, visited the (Nabudha) camp as part of its field [word indistinct] of the southern axis. The committee met with the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the camp.

The deputy chief of staff conveyed the greetings of the political and military leadership to the commanders and fighters of the brigade. He emphasized the unity and integration of our Armed Forces.

He said: The Armed Forces are in good shape, and the propaganda and rumors by those who are not concerned for the Yemeni unity [words indistinct] Armed Forces were received by enlightened behavior on the part of fighters. This demonstrated their eagerness to keep the military establishment away from conflicts and political rivalries.

He urged all to remain vigilant and have a sense of national responsibility in the service of the higher interest of the Yemeni homeland and people.

Brother Staff Colonel 'Ali Naji, Military Committee member, also spoke about the reality of current conditions in the national arena concerning the building of modern Yemen. He said the dispute was not between the north and the south, a fact which was emphasized by the document of pledge and accord and the popular meetings that agreed on various issues on building the state on the basis of unity.

The brother brigade commander welcomed the Military Committee members, and valued the great efforts made by the committee during the regrettable political crisis. He said these efforts had increased satisfaction and confidence that the homeland and its people are able to overcome the crisis through dialogue.

The Military Committee also visited the southern operations axis and met with commanders and soldiers. The deputy chief of the General Staff emphasized that the committee has implemented the tasks assigned to it based on a national concept and a high sense of responsibility that gives priority to the homeland's higher interests.

For his part, brother Staff Colonel Khalid al-Mahmar [not further identified] referred to the impact of the political crisis on the Armed Forces, and the positive role shouldered by the Military Committee to end the crisis and tension. He said the fighters highly appreciated this role, which has greatly helped to preserve the unity of our Armed Forces. He hoped that the crisis would be the last in order to forge ahead in building the homeland and the modern Yemeni state that is based on justice and order.

Brothers Colonel Ahmad Sayf, member of the Military Committee, and the commander of the 2d Brigade spoke about the vital importance of not getting drawn into the tension and wrongful incitement that harm the status of the Armed Forces and the nature of their tasks in defending the homeland. They urged the Armed Forces members to work for further integration and to bolster confidence on the basis of national unity.

Afterwards, an open discussion took place among the fighters in which they emphasized their total faith in the Yemeni unity and sincerity in defending it. They also emphasized their firm support for the masses' option of unity and democracy. They welcomed the document of pledge and accord, and said this document came to correct many defects concerning rights and duties.

Defense Minister on Unity Issues, Threats

PM0802161594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir by Lutfi Shatarah in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] A visitor to Yemen, which is experiencing one of its most serious political crises, senses profound official and popular optimism about the Pledge and Accord Document resulting from the national dialogue. In your view, what is the national and historic importance of this document?

[Tahir] The document's importance is that it represents a national consensus base in which everyone shoulders their responsibility honorably and sincerely. It embodies the Yemeni democratic political movement's ability to respond to the homeland's and people's objective need for democracy and to build the institutions of the unified state in accordance with contemporary concepts. The national and historic importance of this document transcends all the secondary and narrow agreements based on the principle of balance and power sharing between the two parties which forged unity. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] What new elements has the document introduced at the military level, and how would you assess its importance with regard to the military building of the unified state?

[Tahir] At the military level it can be said that this document has drawn up a clear strategic concept to rebuild—I repeat, rebuild—and organize the Armed Forces on the basis of modern national foundations matching the comprehensive unionist and democratic developments on the national and international scenes. More importantly, it has drawn up principles that are bound to reinforce the army's status and positive role in the context of the development process and to turn it into a factor of progress and stability rather than an obstacle to it. And as you noted, it specified the tasks for the Armed Forces in terms of the corps, their ideal sizes, their organization, and how they should be run. It also drew up the general outlines for attaining optimum preparedness, armament levels, organization, and rehabilitation. It can be said that for the first time national forces have been able to contribute directly to formulating a methodological view of the homeland's defense issue and to enhancing the Armed Forces' capability. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] In your capacity as a leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], which is a party to the current crisis, do you expect the Pledge and Accord Document to succeed? And in your view, what factor and conditions are needed for its successful implementation?

[Tahir] The criterion of any document's importance lies in its being turned into a transforming force and achieving the aims sought from it. It also lies in our ability to implement this document. Implementation of this document cannot be "partial" or "selective" in accordance with the criteria of narrow interests. It should be comprehensive and on schedule. And I hope the document will be different from the previous ones, namely that it will be seriously implemented and translated into reality.

As for the guarantees and conditions for its implementation, they lie in a group of practical and binding implementation measures which should be formulated and crystallized by the dialogue committee as part of this document. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] What are the conditions and guarantees at the military level? Implementing this document at the military level requires huge material and human resources in moving units to new positions. Have all the arrangements been made in this connection?

[Tahir] Success at the military level cannot be in isolation from the success of the implementation process as a whole. It is an integrated process. Birds cannot fly with one wing. I believe that the conditions for success are general before they can be particular, and all the country's capabilities, resources, and energies should be utilized to secure these conditions as long as they are to do with building foundations for a new unionist, strong, and prosperous state.

With regard to the capabilities needed to move the more disciplined military units, it is a very significant point. There are additional requirements which I believe society and the state will not be unable to meet. Citizens who have suffered a great deal as a result of the crisis, for the sake of defending unity and building a contemporary state, can see that the aim for which they have been struggling is about to be achieved, and are thus willing to make further sacrifices, even if the situation requires that they sacrifice their own lives for the sake of important and noble aims. The country's resources and capabilities are great and sufficient if they are used rationally and utilized correctly.

[Shatarah] The Armed Forces are given more attention in the national dialogue than any other institution. What do you think the reason for this is, and what are your plans to implement what is mentioned in the document with regard to the military aspect?

[Tahir] As you said, the military aspect was given more attention by the various parties engaged in the dialogue than any other aspect. Maybe because of the existence of legitimate concerns. Some people are rightly concerned about the present position of the Armed Forces and hence the potential sinister dangers and risks. And maybe because the Armed Forces represent the melting pot of Yemeni unity which accommodates all contradictions and the homeland's social, political, cultural, and geographical map. And their complete unification is a necessity to ensure unity's victory and consolidation. This importance is also derived from the Armed Forces' distinctive role in safeguarding the achievements of unity, the revolution, and democracy.

With regard to our plans for implementation, the document clearly specified the general outlines of our tasks in the Armed Forces, namely, to complete their merger, their redeployment, their withdrawal from the partition areas, and other tasks. It also specifies the timetable for implementing that. So we have begun to analyze and assess what is mentioned in the document and to draw up detailed tasks and steps for implementation, in addition to the necessary means and methods. We have formed specialized committees for each task and determined the orientations, aims, and principles that guarantee accurate and rigorous implementation.

[Shatarah] The document stipulates that the units present in what used to be known as the fringes between the two parts of Yemen be moved. To what areas will they be moved?

[Tahir] That principle is not prompted by the crisis or the present situation, to defuse that situation and avert an explosion in the present crisis, or to spare these units the risks of political frictions. It has always been part of our general view since the first day of unity. Because there is no military, security, or even economic need for these units to remain in their old positions. Their current presence has partially embodied the partition reality, even psychologically. The units should be moved to the areas that require the army's services and national and historic role in defending national sovereignty and protecting the people's economic interests against any aggression. That is, the units' movement should be governed by the principle of reinforcing the homeland's security and stability, protecting economic installations and foreign companies, closing outlets for terrorism and smuggling, and decisively contributing to combating them. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] What military units are required to be moved from the cities?

[Tahir] All military units that have combat tasks and weapons and which have no service, administrative, or military tasks that require their remaining in the cities. I believe that the stipulation is very clear in the document.

[Shatarah] Southern military officials demanded the need to abolish the Republican Guard and merge the Armed Forces. Why? And is there an alternative plan to provide protection for the president, vice president, and the other Presidential Council members?

[Tahir] Before unity the Republican Guard existed within the military formation of the Armed Forces in the northern governorates. Its leadership is under the control of the head of state along the lines of the practice in some countries, like fraternal Iraq. There is nothing similar to it in the southern or eastern governorates. The Republican Guard is not an internal security unit, as some people think. They are combat military units with a high level of preparedness and advanced and modern armament. In terms of its structure, preparedness, and armament, the Republican Guard is above all else prepared to carry out large-scale military tasks to defend national sovereignty. This is why it is necessary for them to be within the formation of the Yemeni Armed Forces and for its units to be merged within the Yemeni Army. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] There have been numerous reports of the YSP's rejection of plans to move the camps from the fringes to the positions allocated to defending national sovereignty.

[Tahir] I am talking to you in my capacity as the defense minister of the Republic of Yemen, not as a partisan element.

All that is being reported about this or that party's rejection is untrue. It is a joint responsibility in all cases of failure and in all cases of success. We spoke about that earlier. The Army's deployment in the fringes continues to represent a form of partition and embody a failure to unify and merge the two armies after unity. The situation continued in that manner until the crisis emerged, when it assumed serious political dimensions. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Some observers believe that there will always be obstacles to the unification of the Armed Forces because of the clear difference between the two armies in terms of their partisan affiliations and the personnel's military and political upbringing?

[Tahir] The observers' expectations are inaccurate, indeed untrue. I do not whether this error is the result of their ignorance of the simplest axioms of Yemeni unity, which was established between two coherent social entities that are united in many aspects within a historical, geographical, and social framework and one stock and one religion. What is more, they are more united by family ties and demographic interlinkage than by political decisions, which have merely embodied the popular and official will and action. The army is part of this people. Its personnel have grown up under one Yemeni revolution and in a deep-rooted unionist foundation. No secondary factors can pose a threat to the spiritual, historical, ethical, and unionist formation of Yemeni fighters. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] How do you view the U.S. and European move to include U.S. and Western military officials in the military committees which are visiting the camps? And will their role focus on averting a military confrontation?

[Tahir] Military representatives from some embassies of the friendly states that expressed interest in the crisis and internal conditions in Yemen will participate in some field visits by the competent military committees. This military activity is an extension to their political and diplomatic activity aimed at resolving the crisis peacefully and through a broadly based democratic dialogue founded on safeguarding unity, building a contemporary state, and broadening the masses' participation in power. We thank these parties for their sincere efforts to secure a rapprochement of views at the political level and reduce military tension in the fringes. We thank them for their endeavors to avert the threats of war.

putting an end to the era and vestiges of secession and partition, the YSP is interested in this document finding its way to serious, speedy, practical implementation so that all aspects of life may stabilize. Therefore, and in light of its assessment of its past experience, it underscores—and it has every right to do so—the need for real and sufficient guarantees for the implementation of that document. The YSP now reasserts this point which it has been emphasizing since the beginning of the crisis and since the presentation of the known 18 points. When these 18 points were submitted, we underlined the importance of linking the acceptance of these points to commencement of their implementation and the provision of sufficient guarantees for that, including the party's proposal at the time that the dialogue be widened to include all influential forces in the Yemeni homeland, which later were represented in the National Dialogue Committee.

"That is why we continue to reaffirm what we had stressed along with all the forces really and genuinely interested in resolving the current crisis and eliminating all the obstacles threatening unity and democracy and their continuation.

"Third, in light of what we have just explained, we should proceed to sign the document with the presence of guarantees for its implementation. Anyone who rejects that in fact stands against the will of the people. The YSP will always uphold the will of the people, the good people of Yemen who are the vast majority of our fine people, or rather the entire struggling Yemeni people.

"Fourth, on the question of who is impeding the signing of the document, it is the party placing obstacles in the way of the provision of guarantees for the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document which, as I said, has been unanimously approved by all the people. Those are in fact exposing their true intentions of rejecting the agreement and insisting on putting their personal narrow interests before the interests of the people. What is important is that history will not turn back."

Meanwhile, Salim Salih Muhammad, Presidential Council member and YSP assistant secretary general, has stated that "the YSP welcomes the conclusions reached by the Dialogue Committee of the Political Forces during its meeting in Sanaa the day before yesterday." He declared that the "party totally accepts the committee's decision naming the Jordanian capital Amman as the venue for the final signing of the Pledge and Accord Document." [passage omitted]

Military Commanders Discuss Crisis, Stress Unity

JN0902084494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Military Committee, led by brother Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of the General Staff and committee head, visited the (Nabudha) camp as part of its field [word indistinct] of the southern axis.

The committee met with the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the camp.

The deputy chief of staff conveyed the greetings of the political and military leadership to the commanders and fighters of the brigade. He emphasized the unity and integration of our Armed Forces.

He said: The Armed Forces are in good shape, and the propaganda and rumors by those who are not concerned for the Yemeni unity [words indistinct] Armed Forces were received by enlightened behavior on the part of fighters. This demonstrated their eagerness to keep the military establishment away from conflicts and political rivalries.

He urged all to remain vigilant and have a sense of national responsibility in the service of the higher interest of the Yemeni homeland and people.

Brother Staff Colonel 'Ali Naji, Military Committee member, also spoke about the reality of current conditions in the national arena concerning the building of modern Yemen. He said the dispute was not between the north and the south, a fact which was emphasized by the document of pledge and accord and the popular meetings that agreed on various issues on building the state on the basis of unity.

The brother brigade commander welcomed the Military Committee members, and valued the great efforts made by the committee during the regrettable political crisis. He said these efforts had increased satisfaction and confidence that the homeland and its people are able to overcome the crisis through dialogue.

The Military Committee also visited the southern operations axis and met with commanders and soldiers. The deputy chief of the General Staff emphasized that the committee has implemented the tasks assigned to it based on a national concept and a high sense of responsibility that gives priority to the homeland's higher interests.

For his part, brother Staff Colonel Khalid al-Mahmar [not further identified] referred to the impact of the political crisis on the Armed Forces, and the positive role shouldered by the Military Committee to end the crisis and tension. He said the fighters highly appreciated this role, which has greatly helped to preserve the unity of our Armed Forces. He hoped that the crisis would be the last in order to forge ahead in building the homeland and the modern Yemeni state that is based on justice and order.

Brothers Colonel Ahmad Sayf, member of the Military Committee, and the commander of the 2d Brigade spoke about the vital importance of not getting drawn into the tension and wrongful incitement that harm the status of the Armed Forces and the nature of their tasks in defending the homeland. They urged the Armed Forces members to work for further integration and to bolster confidence on the basis of national unity.

Afterwards, an open discussion took place among the fighters in which they emphasized their total faith in the Yemeni unity and sincerity in defending it. They also

[Shatarah] If the parties which signed the document fail to implement its clauses, do you expect the situation to be settled militarily?

[Tahir] Why should we expect failure, not certain success? That is what I believe, for several reasons: First, we are serious and indeed determined to work to make the document a success. Nothing is impossible if there is a national will and consensus to work for the sake of the homeland.

Second, I believe that the document contains many success factors, namely, the national consensus, absolute popular support, and the great Arab and international blessing and support it enjoys.

Talk about the possible failure or abortion of this great plan is nothing but a desire and dream among those who are harmed by national reform and the building of a contemporary state, and among the enemies of unity and democracy, who by any standards are few and have no influence.

[Shatarah] What about the possibility of war?

[Tahir] The possibility of war is remote from our political vocabulary. Everyone realizes—indeed, is convinced—that war and its calamitous devastation are futile. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Right now, Yemen is experiencing a state of real separation. In your view, what are the ways out if the situation continues as it stands and if the clauses of the agreement are not implemented?

[Tahir] The crisis is the result of objective reality. It has its own causes and forces, and surmounting it is not impossible.

We always rely on the language of reason and dialogue. Because it is capable of solving the most complex of problems in a democratic and civilized manner. Despite the complexity and seriousness of the situation, it is still under political control. I always bank on the masses and their action, which achieved the Pledge and Accord Document. I believe that they are capable of implementing it. They achieved unity and they are its protectors.

If the document—God forbid—is not implemented, I personally cannot even accurately predict the disastrous consequences for the homeland's unity and future. If something of that kind takes place, it will mean an absolute inability to control the situation and its fallout. It would be a catastrophe by any standards.

Everyone has a grave national responsibility and crucial choice. Everyone must shoulder this responsibility both honorably and sincerely. And since we have succeeded in drawing up this document, we must continue to struggle in the same spirit for the sake of its implementation. [passage omitted]

Civil Aviation Source Notes Remarks on Seized Plane

JN0802220794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] A responsible source at the General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority has made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', in which he expressed surprise over the statement made by brother Brigadier General Qasim Tahir, defense minister and member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, on the Ugandan Boeing 707. He said that the statement is not in harmony with the Civil Aviation Law and the valid rules pertaining to aviation, and does not reflect reality.

To explain this, he said the air traffic controller at Sanaa International Airport was surprised by the entry of the plane into Yemeni airspace without obtaining a prior authorization from the competent authorities. The air traffic controller recalled the report of the Air Defense Command, which also stressed that there was no authorization for the entry and landing of that plane. If there had been any prior permit from the competent authorities, the concerned parties at air traffic control and air defense would have been informed [words indistinct] in accordance with the rules of the air transportation valid in our country and the rest of the world.

The responsible source at the Civil Aviation Authority asserted that the General Civil Aviation Authorities is the party responsible for issuing such permits in accordance with Article 10 of the Civil Aviation Law. Neither airports nor any other party have the right to grant such permits.

In addition to that, and if we consider that the Ugandan plane's travel was in the interest of the war effort of the Armed Forces in the southern and eastern governorates, as stated in the defense minister's statement, the Defense Ministry should have obtained a permit from the General Civil Aviation Authority in accordance with Article 10 of Civil Aviation Law No. 12 of 1993, to which the authority referred in its previous statement.

The source also added that the authorization mentioned in the defense minister's statement No. 94/57, Aden, [word indistinct] was not issued by the competent and authorized authority; namely, the Civil Aviation Authority, which does not have any information on the issue. The source denounced the content of the statement made by the defense minister, who said that the measures taken to make the plane land in al-Hudaydah airport is considered a violation of the rules of the national and international aviation. The reverse is true. Organizing aviation is part of the duties assigned to the aviation authority, which it does in accordance with international agreements, particularly with the Chicago agreement on civil aviation.

Concluding, the source said: The brother defense minister should not have interfered in the work of the authority that is charged with the organization of aviation rules and should have encouraged the employees of the civil aviation authority, who carried out their duty to defend national sovereignty over the Republic of Yemen's airspace.

Salih Addresses Celebration Marking Selge on Sanaa

JN0802151094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, accompanied by Presidential Council Member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, this morning attended the celebration organized by the Sanaa branch of the General People's Congress at the Cultural Center in Sanaa marking the 26th anniversary of the 70-day siege on Sanaa, December 1967 to February 1968 and the Yemeni people's triumph in the 70-day epic against the forces of tyranny and backwardness.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, delivered a speech in which he said he was happy to attend this celebration marking the 26th anniversary of the siege on valiant Sanaa and the anniversary of the 70-day (?immortal) epic. He said: I am very pleased to see these national symbols and historic leaders, who had the honor to defend the revolution and the republic and defeat the [word indistinct] savage onslaught by the antirevolution and antirepublic forces during the 70-day siege on valiant Sanaa. On behalf of the Presidential Council—the political leadership of united Yemen—we have decided to award the 70-day Medal to the city of Sanaa and the 70-day Medal to all the virtuous martyrs who fell during the 70-day epic and to all disabled veterans. [Words indistinct] of all historic, militant figures and leaders, and the shaykhs, dignitaries, social figures, and fighters who played prominent roles during that immortal, heroic epic.

The brother chairman added: As we approach the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, we had hoped that we would have been able to sign the accord document achieved by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee on this day—the 26th anniversary of the defeat of the siege on valiant Sanaa, in order to rescue our people from this regrettable crisis, which benefits none of us. [Word indistinct] to those who are responsible for fabricating this crisis, which is hurting our people, bringing price hikes and destroying their stable and tranquil life. It is an occasion on which we renew the call to all of our citizens, particularly the political forces, to pool their forces to preserve unity and democracy and [word indistinct] the firm militant spirit, with which our people preserved the march of revolution and the republic.

Ekeus Said To Make 'Personal Effort' To Lift Embargo

JN0802203194 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Feb 94 pp 1, 2

[By Jihad Zayir and Rasmiyah Minwir]

[Text] Mr. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, has asserted that his talks in Baghdad will focus this time on an all-out, rather than a partial, lifting of the sanctions, as was the case in the past.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH upon his arrival at the al-Rashid Hotel, where he is staying in Baghdad, Ekeus added that the UN Security Council is fully prepared to find solutions to the issues related to the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Nonetheless, Ekeus noted, I do acknowledge that our discussions will address complicated political and technical issues.

When asked by AL-JUMHURIYAH why the statements he makes in Baghdad on the prospects for lifting the sanctions are optimistic, whereas the statements he makes on the issue when he is outside Iraq are different, Ekeus said that he hopes that rapid steps will be taken this time to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq after he apprises the UN Security Council of the outcome of his Baghdad talks, which he expects to be positive.

When questioned if he is aware of the fact that he is responsible for the Iraqi people's continued suffering, which is caused by the embargo and prolonged talks on Iraq's compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, even though Iraq has honored all its commitments as enshrined in these resolutions, particularly those regarding Paragraph C, when the UN Security Council has failed to honor its commitments as enshrined in Article 22 of Resolution 687, Ekeus said: This time, I will make a personal effort. I will talk to all competent agencies about lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq. This will be a personal effort on my part. It will also reflect my sense of responsibility toward the Iraqi people. This is because I, from the humanitarian point of view, am aware of what the continuation of the sanctions means. Nonetheless, any decision on the sanctions issue is contingent upon the outcome of these talks.

We posed the following question to Ekeus: Is it fair that the Iraqi people should continue to suffer from the effects of this unfair embargo, even though Iraq has all along been honoring its commitments toward the UN Security Council? His answer was as follows: What can we do? These are the results of the Gulf War. We will try to find some solutions.

We asked him whether he is optimistic about the outcome of the talks this time. He said: Maybe, maybe.

Rolf Ekeus came to tears when a glorious Iraqi woman named Zahra' Yahya, widow of martyr Mu'izz al-Qaysi and mother of martyr Muhammad, approached him with a photograph of her martyred son, and asked him whether he recognized the child in the picture. She addressed him, saying: It is my son Muhammad. I lost him and his father, too. Do you know why?

Ekeus replied: No.

Zahra' said: My son was martyred when the United States launched a missile attack on Baghdad in June 1993.

Ekeus said: I am sorry for this outcome.

She answered him saying: What do I have today with your regrets? I will sue you. I will sue the United States. I will sue the United Nations and the UN Security Council. You come here to discuss the destruction of Iraq's weapons. Meanwhile, you allow the United States to kill Iraqis with its weapons. You have failed to take any measures against the United States.

Ekeus repeated his strong regrets over the loss of her husband and son. But Zahra' continued to speak to him in fluent English, asking him and the UN Security Council to take a humanitarian position on the crimes perpetrated against the Iraqi people. Then, Ekeus could not restrain himself any longer. He came to tears and repeated: "Madame, I am very sorry for you." Afterward, he left us.

Meanwhile, a Belgian journalist who was nearby, having seen Mr. Ekeus' tears, commented, saying: Impossible. Is it possible for Mr. Ekeus to weep and shed real tears? How can this stony-hearted man weep?

INC 'Final Statement' on Salah-al-Din Meeting

JN0702181094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1540 GMT 7 Feb 94

["Final statement" issued after the joint meeting of the Presidential and the Executive Councils of the united Iraqi National Congress in Salah-al-Din on 6 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Presidential and Executive Councils of the united Iraqi National Congress, INC, held their sixth joint meeting in the INC headquarters in the city of Salah-al-Din from 1-6 February 1994.

The meeting was inaugurated by a Koranic recitation. The chairman of the Executive Council then read a report on the INC's activities during 1993 and the agenda of the meeting was approved. The agenda includes a review of recent developments inside Iraq and on the regional and international levels with regard to the Iraqi issue. The conferees studied the report presented by the chairman of the Executive Council.

In light of this, the following committees were formed to discuss matters in detail:

The Arab and Islamic Relations Committee; the International Affairs Committee; the Financial Committee; the Administration and Organizational Committee; and the 1994 Plan Committee.

The Arab and Islamic Relations Committee discussed ways to promote the INC's relations with the neighborly states, the Arab states, and the Islamic world to serve the cause of the Iraqi people and to confront dictatorship in Iraq. The committee made many recommendations in this regard.

The International Affairs Committee dealt with developments in the issue in terms of international organizations and foreign countries. The committee recommended that the INC exert efforts to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which call for providing food and medicine to the Iraqi people to alleviate their suffering provided that the dictatorial regime is deprived of the flow of funds.

The conferees studied the new international efforts to implement the UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 688, which call for ending repression and coercion against the Iraqi people. The conferees underscored the need to protect human rights and called for an expansion of the no-fly zone to cover the whole of Iraq and establish a safehaven in the south. They also noted that the international community is becoming firmer vis-a-vis the dictatorial regime of Saddam Husayn and is supporting trends to set up a national democratic alternative in Iraq that respects the will of the Arab and Kurdish people to choose the form of their future government in Iraq.

The Financial, Administrative, and Organizational Committees studied financial, administrative, and organizational affairs. The committees' reports tackled financial, administrative, and organizational matters. The conferees discussed these issues and made the appropriate decisions.

The conferees also made the necessary decisions and took measures to activate the constitutional consultative council.

The committee charged with charting the 1994 plan stressed the need to continue the conference's program and working plans to confront the dictatorial regime and establish a democratic alternative.

The plan touches on the principal issues in the struggle against dictatorship, especially the political aspect. It is aimed at implementing the conference's political statement by: emphasizing the democratic, national alternative that we seek to achieve; by entrenching the democratic experience in Kurdistan; by showing concern for the unity of Iraq, which is being threatened by the course followed by the dictatorial regime and by the regime's continuation; by emphasizing the importance of strengthening Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and guaranteeing administrative and cultural national rights to the Turkomans and Assyrians; and by seeking to create a democratic, pluralistic, federal Iraq that strengthens the country's unity.

The plan also emphasizes the need to employ regional and international sympathy for our people to help enact the international resolutions and serve the struggle against dictatorship. The plan also emphasizes our reliance on our people's administration to establish an alternative of their choice.

The plan is also aimed at strengthening the conference's initiatives on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels to win greater attention from the world in support of the Iraqi cause.

On the subject of human rights, we stress the need to draft a comprehensive plan to activate and implement UN Security Council Resolution 688. This includes the dispatch of UN observers to monitor human rights violations in Iraq, the stationing of UN guards in all parts of Iraq, the confrontation of all acts of suppression practiced by the regime, and the end of the domestic embargo imposed on liberated Kurdistan and other areas in the south. Iraqi Kurdistan must be exempted from the international embargo in order to alleviate the people's suffering and to help ensure the success of democracy in the region. We must do everything possible to stop the regime from continuing the policy of drying up the marshlands and displacing its Arab Shiite inhabitants. We also demand that Saddam and his gang be brought before an international court in accordance with the bill of indictment, which was prepared by the INC and presented to the United Nations and other international organizations.

In the field of the media, the plan stresses the need to adopt a policy, both inside and outside, to implement the political directives of the conference, develop media agencies, and provide the necessary funds and supplies for them.

The conferees also decided to consider all the papers presented by the specialized committees, after they are approved, as part of the 1994 plan.

The joint meeting of the two councils was briefed on certain aspects and results of the field action. The competent agencies in the conference have chartered the plan for the field action for 1994.

The problems, programs, and action plan were discussed with a sense of great responsibility. Constructive and practical decisions and recommendations were reached in a democratic fashion, which confirms the existence of common convictions in all areas.

The conferees were apprised of the outcome of the meeting held in Ankara by the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey. They welcomed the ministers' statement the the internal siege clamped on Iraqi Kurdistan and southern Iraq must be lifted, and that electrical services must be restored to Dahuk. They also welcomed the ministers' reiteration that Iraqi people must be allowed to determine their future by free will. In the same vein, the conferees would like to assert that the continued survival of Saddam Husayn's regime poses a real threat to the country's unity. We Iraqis, are the most concerned for the unity of our people and homeland, the conferees noted.

The conferees underlined their eagerness and constant efforts to establish a democratic Iraq that would promote regional security and stability, contribute to the establishment of good relations with neighboring countries, and foster the economic growth of the peoples of the region.

The conferees hailed the third anniversary of the glorious popular uprising of March 1991, which expressed the people's will against dictatorship and constituted a popular referendum demanding the ousting of the regime. They glorified the martyrs of the uprising and the anniversary of the heroic feats forged by the uprising's heroes. They also pledged to the martyrs to continue the struggle until the achievement of their objective of toppling dictatorship.

While condemning the regime's repressive and criminal practices, the joint meeting of the INC's Presidential Council and Executive Council commends the steadfastness and sacrifices of the glorious Iraqi people. In the same vein, they hail the Kurdish people's resistance, as demonstrated in their efforts to safeguard their democratic experiment, as well as the gains they have made for the whole of Iraq. The conferees also commend our people's steadfastness and resistance in southern and central Iraq and the rest of Iraq. They urge military personnel and Ba'thists to abandon the tyrant, to join the people's ranks in struggle, and to step up this struggle on all levels in order to topple dictatorship and set up a patriotic and democratic regime.

And say: Work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. [part of a Koranic verse]

[signed] The Presidential Council and Executive Council of the united INC, Salah-al-Din, Irbil

[dated] 6 February 1994, corresponding to 24 Sha'ban 1414 Hegira

'Field Action' Plan Approved

PM0902111294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 94 p6

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Criticizes Istanbul Meeting and Reaffirms Insistence on Federal System"]

[Text] London—The "Unified Iraqi National Congress" [UINC] and the tripartite Presidential Council emanating from it have approved a "field action" plan and reaffirmed that they seek "a democratic federal Iraq that would consolidate the country's unity." A statement issued at the conclusion of the meetings held by the UINC and the Presidential Council in the town of Salah-al-Din in northern Iraq criticized the Syrian-Turkish-Iranian ministerial meeting held in Istanbul last Saturday [5 February].

The Iraqi opposition's joint meetings were held 1-6 February and were boycotted by the opposition's pan-Arab faction based in Damascus. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had pledged to "confront any attempt to fragment Iraq."

In a telephone statement from Salah-al-Din, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the UINC Executive Council, said that "the tone of the ministerial statement in reference to the fragmentation of Iraq was the strongest" issued by al-Shar', Cetin, and Velayati, "and it very much surprised the UINC in its emphasis on this issue, for neither the Kurdistan Front nor the UINC is calling for the division or partition of Iraq." He added: "We do not know if these fears are a result of dissatisfaction with the democratic experiment in Iraqi Kurdistan." But he also said that "the ministerial statement contained some positive points such as the call for an end to the internal (Iraqi) blockade against Iraqi Kurdistan and the south and for the restoration of the power supply to Dahuk, asserting that it should be left to the Iraqi people to determine their own future freely."

He drew attention to the Iraqi opposition's statement that "the regime of (President) Saddam Husayn and its continuation are the real threat to the country's unity. We Iraqis care most about the unity of our people and homeland." In his view, there was no connection between the Turkish raids on positions in northern Iraq the day before yesterday and the results of the Istanbul meeting. He stressed that "these raids will never settle anything" as regards tackling the issue of the Kurdish Workers Party which is waging a war against the Turkish state.

Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman emphasized that the opposition "is not contemplating setting up an army to fight the Iraqi Army." He said that the Salah-al-Din statement "renewed its appeal to the military and to the members of the ruling Ba'th Party to join the ranks of the people to escalate the struggle to overthrow the regime." He added that over 300 figures took part in the joint meetings, which were also attended by tripartite Presidential Council Members Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, Mas'ud Barzani, and Major General Hasan al-Naqib and which "passed resolutions dealing with all organizational and financial problems." He said that the conferees also concentrated on ways of handling the issue of the Kurdistan Islamic Movement [KIM] after the clashes which broke out between its fighters and fighters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani. "The UINC's view is that the solutions should be based on the principle of reconciliation and that the KIM should be treated like any other party in accordance with the Kurdish parliament's laws including the law prohibiting possession of arms."

The opposition also renewed its call for "the expansion of the air exclusion zone to include all Iraq and for the creation of safe havens in the south." The statement of the UINC Presidential Council and Executive Council "called for the deployment of UN guards throughout all Iraq" and for the dispatch of UN observers to "watch out for violations of human rights, lift the internal blocade imposed on liberated Kurdistan and southern areas, and exclude Kurdistan from the international embargo to ease the people's suffering." It praised the "steadfastness of our people in the south, the center, and the rest of the country," and it "saluted the third anniversary of the popular uprising" in southern Iraq which followed the Gulf war.

The conferees also discussed development of ties between the UINC and the neighboring states and the Arab and Islamic states.

'Huge' Explosion Reported at Foreign Ministry

NC0802161094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] According to sources of the Iraqi opposition abroad, a huge explosion occurred at the Foreign Ministry of tyrant Saddam's regime. According to sources inside Iraq, the explosion took place on Saturday [5 February] night, causing severe property damage and killing some of the ministry's employees.

Tyrant Saddam's regime imposed a tight cordon around the scene of the blast and desperately tried to prevent the news from reaching news agencies abroad, but eyewitnesses have described the explosion as breathtaking and said it was heard in several areas of Baghdad.

Mortar Attack on Party Branch Reported

NC0802161694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpt] A mortar artillery unit from the Islamic Resistance last week dealt a painful blow to the branch of the ruling party in al-Qurnah district, al-Basrah Governorate. According to our sources in southern Iraq, the attack took place while officials from the regime's security agencies were meeting at the aforementioned branch. The same sources added that the mortars hit their target directly, destroying the building and killing and wounding scores of criminals who were inside it. According to our sources, ambulances and fire engines were seen rushing to the scene of the incident to evacuate the dead and wounded to al-Qurnah hospital. [passage omitted]

Pro-Regime Kurdish Officials Pledge Loyalty to Saddam

JN0802154894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received further cables of congratulations on the 31st anniversary of the blessed 8 February revolution.

The leader president has received a cable of congratulations from Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region. The cable reads as follows: On the 31st anniversary of the glorious 8 February revolution, I would like to extend, in my name and on behalf of the Legislative Council members and all noble Kurds, my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency the president. I beseech Almighty God to grant you continued good health, and to help our steadfast people, under your wise leadership, achieve complete victory over the evil aggressors, consummate the march of reconstruction and jihad, and break the unfair embargo imposed on great Iraq.

Leader president: The will of our people, be they Arabs, Kurds, or other minorities, will remain strong and unbeatable, regardless of the savagery of the aggression and its evil chapters. Our Kurdish people, whose dreams have come true and whose rights have been restored under your wise and historic leadership, are opposed to the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary presence on Kurdish territory. They would like to underscore their unwavering faith in inevitable victory over the hateful enemies, who are now gathered in a treacherous and atheistic alliance to harm great Iraq and starve their militant people.

For his part, Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barazanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous region, has sent a similar cable to the leader president, saying: On the occasion of our Iraqi people's celebrations marking the blessed 8 February revolution, allow me, leader president, to extend to you, in my name and on behalf of the Executive Council members and all sincere Kurds, my heartfelt congratulations. We pledge to Your Excellency to remain loyal soldiers under your wise leadership to defeat the 30-state aggression, consummate the reconstruction and jihad drive, and break the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq.

Leader President: Our people, under your courageous leadership, are bound to win the war. They will humiliate all enemies and cause them to suffer certain defeat and disappointment. On the anniversary of the glorious 8 February revolution, our people will derive strength and determination from your strength and resolve to defeat the evildoers and achieve victory. They will forge ahead with all confidence and resolve behind your historic leadership to build new Iraq and uphold the lofty banner of God is great.

Mujahid President: May you live long as a historic leader for Iraq, the home of Arabs, Kurds, and minorities, and as a shining symbol of our hopes, aspirations, and reconstruction drive.

Deteriorating Food, Health Situation Reported

JN0702174194 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 7 (INA)—A recent report by a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mission has confirmed earlier conclusions by another FAO/WFP survey that warns of a rapid deterioration in food supply situation throughout Iraq. The present mission report, issued in December last year, notes with deep concerns the prevalence of several commonly recognized pre-famine indicators. These conclusions, based on observations and interviews in several areas of the country, confirm the presence of such indicators as very high food prices, collapse of private incomes, depletion of personal assets as well as rapidly increasing numbers of the destitutes. Following is the fourth part of the FAO mission report:

The shortage in water supply has led to severe problems in hygiene. According to health authorities outbreaks of lice, typhoid, and cholera continue to be serious public health problems in al-Basrah and throughout the country (department in al-Basrah, personal communication).

Moreover, sanitation has become a common problem in schools that now have 2-3 shifts a day leading to facilitated transmission of water-borne diseases amongst the primary age school children. Care Internatioual reported that in 1954 [year as received] it plans to rehabilitate school lavatories.

Although the extensive vaccination supply system and the cold chain broke down completely immediately after the war, immunization rates are back well above 80 per cent, better than pre-war levels in certain areas (UNICEF 1993, personal communication). The Ministry of Health has received substantial assistance from UNICEF/WHO in maintaining the cold chain and in the provision of vaccines for immunization. The mission noted adequate stocks of vaccines in Maysan and Irbil Governorates. In addition, many mothers when asked, knew about the BCG vaccination.

Although little is known about the incidence of acute respiratory factions (ARI), drugs to treat infections in children remain inadequate. The mission noted that several cases of ARI in the pediatric wards of Saddam City Hospital in Baghdad. These cases were receiving antibiotic treatment but physicians complained of shortages, especially during the later winter months when ARI is a more frequent occurrence. WHO does provide drugs and other medical supplies, but the total amount is insufficient to meet the needs of the population. In July to March 1993, 780,000 U.S. dollars worth of drugs were provided under the U.N. Humanitarian Assistance Programme. However, drugs to treat chronic diseases, anesthesia to perform basic surgical procedures, nitrous oxide for birthing facilities as well as antibiotics to control infection after surgery are virtually unavailable as reported by several hospitals and the minister of health. This was offered as the explanation of why hospitals are now functioning at 40-50 per cent of their original capacity in spite of the reported increase in infectious disease and severe malnutrition.

Only severely ill cases are now being treated. Even when drugs are available, their price on the free market may be 200 times greater than the government rationed price, thus making them virtually unobtainable for the poor.

In summary, food insecurity at the household level, inadequate water and sanitary system, and the shortage of drugs to treat infections are likely to result in more serious malnutrition.

A small scale study was conducted in collaboration with the Nutrition Research Institute in one of the least privileged areas of Baghdad Saddam City.

The objective of the study was to observe first hand the household food security situation in a disadvantaged subsample of the urban population and to assess their nutritional status using simple anthropometric measures. All members of the family present at the time of the home visit were measured and their age ascertained utilizing whenever possible the subjects health cards, eight of the 13 clusters in Saddam City canvassed during the 1991 international team survey were selected for the study to permit a comparison.

Although the study was carried out by five teams, results from only 4 teams are reported. These teams were supervised by mission members. Each team included two technicians and one professional supervisor from the Nutrition Research Institute and one member of the mission. One hundred and twenty one households were visited and a total of 506 subjects were measured; 194 were children under 5 years of age, 136 children between 5 and 15 years of age, and 172 persons 15 years of age and older.

Mission member observed that a number of households had sold most of their family assets: Furniture, refrigerators, television, jewelry, and other items. Some of the children and adults wore tattered clothes but most households appeared to have access to kerosene for heating, tap water, and electricity.

The study had a number of limitations. The sample was not representative of Baghdad as a whole; it was purposely chosen to assess the situation among an underprivileged urban group but results cannot be extrapolated to a defined sector of the Iraqi population. The study had other limitations; the bathroom scales to weigh the preschool children were designed to weigh adults and therefore lacked precision when used to measure children. It should be noted, however, that although these scales were not calibrated and standardized because of lack of time, they were SECA manufactured and used for the first time. They were provided by UNICEF for use in anthropometric measurements. Baby balances (SECA) were used in weighing very young infants below 10 kg weight. The height boards and tapes were all new and perfectly suitable for the purpose. The enumerators included persons with variable degrees of experience in taking anthropometric measurements and there was no time to train them or to standardize their techniques.

Paper Notes Citizens' Complaints About Police Conduct

JN0802120794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 31 Jan 94 p 10

[Report by Shihab Ahmad Mahmud titled: "Why Do Some Military Policemen Refuse To Recognize End of Service Document?"]

[Excerpt] Military policemen's known duty is to punish wrongdoers, apprehend deserters from military service and so forth. Nobody differs on that. But there have been complaints against these policemen which must be mentioned. We have received many complaints about their behavior and maltreatment of certain innocent individuals. Despite the fact these individuals carried documents proving their correct status, the military policemen treated them as wrongdoers or deserters. The complaints include one sent by citizen (J-'A), from Madinat al-Hurriyah who was apprehended by a military police detachment and remanded for five days despite the fact that he carried an end of service document which was issued by the Ministry of Defense. Still, they did not recognize it! [passage omitted]

Trade Ministry Blamed for Hike in Dollar Rate

JN0802114494 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 31 Jan 94 p 12

["Above the Red Line" column: "Negative Effects of the Trade Ministry's Food Price List" by Faruq Jasim al-'Azzawi]

[Text] The Trade Ministry has a struggling role in the present economic conditions to meet the people's ration card requirements despite all economic obstacles, no matter how justifiable, and the fluctuations in food prices due to the rise or fall of the dollar exchange rate. No doubt, the ministry's economic activity is scientific and enlightened, taking into consideration all factors affecting the stability of the market. The ministry's operations room is also doing an excellent job. However, those in charge of the food price list have failed so far to examine market conditions and the movements and stability of prices before rushing in an unstudied manner to fix the new food prices. This has led to grave results, such as destabilizing the market and causing anxiety to the citizen who has to shoulder new prices which are beyond his means. This is in addition to their effect on hiking the dollar exchange rate. I do not want to go into detail on the Trade Ministry's numerous measures and guidelines to explain their serious economic effects on what I have just mentioned. I will simply discuss one item, ghee, to prove the erroneous method used by the Trade Ministry in fixing the prices of ghee and other items in the food price list.

More than one month ago, the Trade Ministry fixed the price of one kg of ghee at 82 dinars; or 1,225 dinars per one can weighing 15 kg. The dollar exchange rate at the time ranged from 130-135 dinars. Yet, the world price of ghee was $9 per can, including freight charges to Baghdad. In some cases, the price went up to $10 for the good quality ghee. In the meantime, the local market continued to be stable as far as the dollar exchange rate was concerned. Suddenly, the Trade Ministry issued an amended price list for motives and reasons which we do not know. It fixed the sale price of one kg of ghee at 98 dinars; or 100 dinars to the consumer. Thus the price of one can of ghee weighing 15 kg became 1,480 dinars and the merchant sold this can to the consumer for 1,520 dinars; an increase of 255 dinars over the price of ghee on the previous list. What has happened to justify this increase? Has there been an increase in world prices—to our knowledge the world price has stabilized at $9 per per can—or was the Ministry trying to absorb the currency surplus, and this also is not correct? The Trade Ministry pays the merchants 28-35 million dinars daily [in subsidy]. The effects of the Trade Ministry's list are clear to everyone from the big jump in the dollar exchange rate. The dollar exchange rate jumped from 135 to 180 dinars after the new list. The merchants fought one another to get dollars at any price in order to quickly benefit from the large profit embedded in the Trade Ministry's new list. This has resulted in a tangible increase in food prices, thereby affecting the citizen's purchasing power and adding more burdens that are beyond his means. Whose interest is being served by this price list; and under what consideration has this list been produced? The price spiral must be borne by the Trade Ministry and its devastating food price list, since this list includes basic items in the ration card, such as sugar, rice, ghee, oil, flour, and tea.

The new price list lacked objectivity by not viewing current conditions within their wider perspective and considering the numerous burdens on the citizen. The price list has come bare of any deep sense of responsibility toward the citizen. In fact, it is a time bomb threatening the market. The market has been disturbed and the dollar exchange rate market is active again. The Trade Ministry has contributed to the new spiral of the dollar exchange rate. All this has taken place thanks to the Trade Ministry's food price list.

Columnist Notes Shortcomings of Development Project

JN0802162494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 8

[Hamid Sa'id article: "The Last Word"]

[Text] It seems to me that the subdistricts development project, which we have rejoiced in and written about enthusiastically, has not produced all the results we had hoped for, nor has it been as successful as we have read in some of our media.

It is clear to me, at least, that what has been achieved by this project has not been even in all areas of development. In some areas, the level of development and the standard of work was higher than in others.

I had hoped to visit many of those subdistricts to get directly acquainted with the work that has been achieved by the development project, but it was not possible for many reasons. And in the areas I did visit I noticed that the level and volume of what we termed the development project was not as described in the news media.

But I have also received letters from several subdistricts included in the development, and all of them referred to the many negative points and the artificiality of work on this project. In several cases, the citizens's basic needs in the subdistricts have remained unfulfilled.

It appeared to me from some of the letters that the writer had exaggerated their criticism of the work that had been done in their subdistricts. Some of the letters said that the funds that had been spent on developing the subdistricts could have been used to accomplish something more important, but that the funds were not spent properly and some subcontractors had benefited more than the subdistricts themselves.

I cannot confirm or deny what the letters said, but let me put it this way: the citizens in the subdistricts know more about their affairs than I do.

Since I have not seen most of the subdistricts, and I cannot accept all that is contained in the letters either, I can only say that it is not logical to ignore what has come out in these letters. I believe that it is essential to establish honest neutral committees in order to inspect the areas where the work has taken place.

I hope that these committees will be able to hear what the citizens have to say and to determine the needs and shortages of their subdistricts.

We all know that work that is incomplete or ill-considered often leads to results directly opposed to what was intended.

I asked a National Assembly member about his subdistrict and what he told me did not please me. He confirmed what was written in the letter I received from a citizen in his subdistrict.

Libyan Official on Blockade, Cultural Exchange

JN0702204594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 4

[Excerpt] Leading members of the Libyan cultural and information mission currently visiting Iraq have stated that the blockade imposed on Iraq is only an old imperialist attempt in a new guise to strike at the beacons of light and awakening, of which Iraq is an important one.

The visitors denounced the continuation of the blockade as a crime, since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward the so-called United Nations. They also condemned the crimes caused by the blockade, such as the death of children and old people due to shortage of food and medicine.

The members expressed their admiration for Iraq's mighty resources, which have contributed to the rebuilding of what was destroyed by the evil aggressors. They noted that these resources are not just for Iraq, but for the entire Arab nation, which the enemies seek to undermine.

Dr. Ahmad 'Aziz, director general of the Libyan Cultural Affairs Department, said: The resources we have seen in Iraq confirm the nation's vitality and ability for sacrifice and creativity. Had the Arab countries been given the opportunity to solidly unite together, they would have become a great nation, contributing to the building of human civilization and asserting its place among world nations, thus realizing its ambitions and will.

Dr. 'Aziz added that the blockades imposed on Iraq and Libya show that the imperialist states do not want the Arab nation and the Arab people, whether in Libya or Iraq, to assert their Arab identity. They want to suppress the Arab nation's aspiration for unity and power, he said.

Regarding the prospects for cultural cooperation between the two fraternal countries, Dr. 'Aziz said that cultural activity in Iraq is as good and distinctive as it is in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Holding Libyan cultural functions in Iraq such as these, he added, will mark a new beginning, God willing, for further interaction in the cultural and media fields between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Ambassador Robbed by Highwaymen

NC0802162194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] A responsible source in the city of al-Ramadi told us that while the Jordanian ambassador was travelling in his private car to Baghdad in mid-December 1993, he was stopped by a number of unknown gunmen on the highway between Baghdad and al-Ramadi. He was robbed of all his personal belongings and money, down to his watch. The source also said that the unknown gunmen cursed the Jordanian ambassador and the Iraqi regime.

U.K's Major Ridiculed Over Kurdish 'Safe Haven'

JN0802153594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the problem with British Prime Minister Major is that he, just like the other politicians whose calculations have proven to be wrong, thought that playing the Kurdish card would result in destabilizing the Iraqi regime. The end result is that he has placed his country and the U.S. Administration at an impasse.

In its editorial today, the paper ridicules Major's statements that "the Kurdistan region is safe," wondering when it was actually more safe—now or before the anti-Iraq aggression.

The paper answers this question, saying that all fair-minded people, even Major himself, cannot deny that the Iraqi Kurdistan region enjoyed stability, security, a high standard of living, as well as the potential for rapid growth before the onset of the aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that, before the aggression, there was a kind of tranquility along the Iraqi-Turkish borders—a tranquility that was marred by only few minor clashes between the Kurdish Workers Party and the Turkish authorities.

The paper points out the current situation in the Kurdistan region, including the military interventions there, as well as the Turkish and Iranian attacks on some positions in the region. It also mentions the incidents witnessed in southeastern Turkey, which have been stepped up since the anti-Iraq aggression.

The paper also speaks of the impasse in which Major placed the U.S. Administration, as manifested by the presence of the so-called Hammer Force in the region. The opposition is wagering on the continued deployment of this force. However, this force is stuck there. It can neither stay there forever, nor withdraw, because it has failed to turn the region into a "safe haven." Likewise, this force cannot establish a Kurdish state there, because Turkey, Iran, Syria, Iraq, and other states strongly oppose this.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: There are indications of another impasse in Iraqi Kurdistan. For the armed agents in northern Iraq are confused. Worse still, they feel that they have reached a dead end, and that they have been exposed as terrorist gangs that are willing to slay one another for trivial reasons, to betray Kurdish nationalism, and to collude with the enemies of Kurds just to maintain their oppression of our Kurdish people.

The paper goes on to say: The people of Kurdistan have begun to speak publicly, expressing their desire to return to Iraq's lap. They are singing the praises of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and writing graffiti expressing their sentiments toward his excellency the president.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that our Kurdish people's return to Iraq's lap would grant them the warmth, security, and stability they have been denied in the false "safe haven" created and protected by the British and Americans. The "safe haven" the British and Americans created is even robbing its creators of security, the paper maintains.

U.S. Aircraft Violations Protested to UN

JN0802135094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] New York, 8 Feb (INA)—Iraq has informed the UN General Secretariat of U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace on provocation and reconnaissance missions. The aircraft, breaking the sound barrier, are also dropping hostile leaflets and flares.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent UN representative said between 21-31 January, the U.S. aircraft violated Iraq's airspace, conducting 719 sorties over wide areas in northern and southern Iraq.

He pointed out that a red drone was seen in the Umm Qasr region, heading from west to east. Another drone, coming from Saudi Arabia, dropped leaflets between al-Shu'aybah and al-Wahdah Airport.

He also confirmed that on 25 January, a drone was observed heading toward al-Dayr region. On 27 January, another drone was seen falling in the al-Barjasiyah region.

Iraq's permanent UN representative added that two reconnaissance TR-1 planes were detected over al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Diwaniyah, and southern al-Najaf, which then headed for Saudi territories.

He added that on 28 January, a drone violated Iraq's airspace over al-Basrah, Safwan, al-Shu'aybah, Jabal Sinam, and returned to Kuwait again on the same day.

Al-Asad Said Using Hizballah as 'Card' in Talks

NC0902111394 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Lebanese affairs in the Israeli Government and head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Lebanon, has stated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is using Hizballah as a card in the negotiations with Israel. In giving Hizballah freedom of action in southern Lebanon, al-Asad wants to have a card to play in the negotiations. Lubrani said President al-Asad wants to make us pay to end this threat.

Lubrani warned that Israel will continue to strike on all occasions and with all means against Hizballah and other terrorist organizations. He indicated that any suspension of the talks with Syria and Lebanon would ultimately serve Hizballah.

Beilin Queried on Progress of Peace Talks

BR0802153794 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 7 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Robert Verdussen in Brussels; date not given: "Israel-PLO: Principal Problems Solved, but Time Still Needed"; first paragraph is LA LIBRE BELGIQUE introduction]

[Text] It seems that Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat will no doubt not be meeting on the evening of 7 February in Cairo in order to try, yet again, to open the door to an agreement on the implementation of Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. Failing a guarantee that, this time, he will be able to conclude with the Israeli foreign minister, the PLO leader will be absent. On the eve of this possible further meeting, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin seemed to us both optimistic and prudent regarding the possibility of quickly concluding an agreement.

Such An Agreement Takes More Than a Couple of Pages

[Verdussen] From the outside, it seems that Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin are out of step. When the former meets 'Arafat, such as last time in Davos, he gives the impression that everything has been virtually settled. Then the prime minister comes across as much less optimistic and speaks of several weeks before everything is concluded. Is this a question of tactics or is there a problem within the government?

[Beilin] First of all, they are two different people and they may have different opinions. Having said this, most of the problems on the agenda were solved in Davos. Broadly speaking, there were three: the defense of the Israeli settlements in the Gaza strip, the extent of autonomy in Jericho, and control of the border with Jordan. These problems have so far prevented the signing of an agreement which, furthermore, was not on the agenda of Mr. Peres and Mr. 'Arafat, not in Oslo, Cairo or Davos. If, as I hope, the solution is found this week in Cairo, we will still need several weeks to conclude. Such an agreement takes more than a couple of pages. Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin are not out of step, but there is a need to interpret and clarify. When Mr. Peres was optimistic, it was with respect to these three problems, not on the prospects of signing an agreement this Monday.

Respecting the Deadline?

[Verdussen] Does this mean that the timetable set could have to be revised?

[Beilin] In Oslo, we decided that the whole process concerning Gaza and Jericho should take six months: two months for negotiations, four months for implementation. During the negotiations we realized that due to several details it would be impossible to conclude in two months. But we do not need four months to implement it. If the negotiations can be completed within the next few weeks, we can still respect the April 1994 deadline. If not, it will be very difficult.

[Verdussen] What are the concrete problems which remain to be solved today for Palestinian autonomy?

[Beilin] Most of the problems are solved except regarding the transfer of authority in the fields of education, health, social assistance, etc. We are negotiating on all of this. Three or four questions remain to be settled or clarified. It is no longer always a question of negotiating but of exchanging information. It is a process. There are also economic problems which are not only important for us but also for Jordan and Egypt: currency, customs, population movements.

At the Highest Level

[Verdussen] And to solve these problems do you need meetings at the highest level, between Mr. Peres and Mr. 'Arafat?

[Beilin] In theory, it is true, problems of this kind could be settled at a lower level. But the fact is that it is not possible at this level.

[Verdussen] Why?

[Beilin] Firstly, no doubt because there are no precedents for us. And then, it is a fact that there is less flexibility at this level than at the summit.

[Verdussen] Yitzhaq Rabin recently expressed regret before the European Parliament at the ambiguous position of the 12 towards Israel. Can you explain this point of view?

[Beilin] If you ask me what I think of the attitude of the Europeans, I would say to you that the 12 should be more committed to the peace process. They are already committed, it is true, especially in the economic field. But that is not enough. The Europeans have always told us: We follow the Americans. And that can seem ambiguous. The Europeans must first help the Palestinians by being sure that the dollars they give get through to the population. And this is not easy to the extent that the Palestinians are still just beginning to set up their institutions. The Europeans must then become involved in joint development projects in the Middle East: electricity, water, roads, telecommunications. Security depends on politics but also on the economy. If certain countries such as Belgium are fully committed, other members of the European Union do not award the same priority to this problem. Money is important. But the Middle East also needs know-how and technology. And we must not forget that it is not just a question of charity but also an economic potential which could be very attractive.

Beilin Meets Omani, Qatari Officials in Washington

TA0802164794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and a special Omani envoy discussed the upcoming water affairs conference scheduled for April in Oman. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that the conference will be attended by Israeli diplomats and journalists.

Deputy Minister Beilin also dined with Qatar's ambassador in Washington. The dinner was attended by Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich. The Qatari ambassador said his country is interested in relations with Israel. It also wants to do business with Israel and to receive Israeli know-how on desalination and irrigation methods.

Saudi Businessmen Arrive for Investment Purposes

TA0802201694 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Hadas Neifman]

[Text] A delegation of Saudi businessmen has arrived in Israel to examine investment possibilities. Moti Trotosh, Union of Chambers of Commerce vice president, said the delegation includes private businessmen who came for purely business purposes, but in his opinion this visit will be followed by political contacts.

According to Mr. Trotosh the delegation will mainly deal with energy related deals, because after the contacts with Qatar on this issue new vistas have been opened to Israel in the gas and oil sphere.

The Saudis are also examining trade possibilities after peace agreements are signed.

Mordekhay: Northern Border 'Relatively Quiet'

TA0902113494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The commander of the Northern Command has said that the northern border is relatively quiet. There is constant activity along the border by both Israel and the terrorist elements, in particular Hizballah, he said. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is operating inside the security zone and outside it according to the policy decided on by the political echelon. He noted that the understandings with Syria worked out in the wake of Operation Accountability are still in effect. The Israeli side of the northern border is not being shelled.

It is difficult to act against Hizballah when its members operate in built-up areas populated by civilians, he said. Gen. Mordekhay said that the IDF is carrying out initiated actions because were it not doing so, the situation on the ground would be worse. The general added that the IDF has drawn lessons from Monday's [7 February] firefight in the al-Rayhan area in which four soldiers were killed. Gen. Mordekhay made these remarks to our army affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe.

IDF Begins Evacuating Outposts in Gaza Strip

TA0802140394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Feb 94 p 12

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpts] For the first time since the Israel-PLO agreements were signed, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday began to reduce the number of troops stationed in the Gaza Strip.

An IDF post overlooking the Jabalyah refugee camp was closed yesterday and was replaced with a small lookout.

Military sources said the outpost, called "Outpost Oranim," was evacuated in the wake of the IDF's change in deployment in the Gaza Strip, but they did not rule out the possibility that the reduction in forces came in the wake of the agreements with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The bullet-ridden body of 'Ata Abu-Ahmad, 30, who worked in Gaza's local hospital, was found. 'Ata was abducted four days ago from his place of work on suspicion of aiding Israel. He was murdered and following the murder the hospital workers went on strike.

Navy Launches New Category Missile Boat

TA0802145394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 94 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The Israel Navy yesterday received the Nirit-category missile boat which will bear the name of Kidon. The boat's construction began at Israel Shipyards some two years as part of the plan to upgrade the Israel Navy missile warships. The boat was designed in Israel on the basis of many years of operational experience with missile boats.

The boat's body is identical to that of Saar 4.5. It is 61.7-meter long and 7-meter wide, and its maximum displacement is 488 metric tons. The vessel will be equipped with sophisticated modern means of warfare, including an electronic combat system, a ship- detecting radar system, aircraft and missiles, a control and monitoring system, Gabriel missiles, Harpoon missiles, Vulcan and Phalanx antiaircraft guns, and Barak, the Israeli-developed antimissile missile. The vessel's maximum speed is 31 knots, and it will accommodate a crew of 45 officers and soldiers. [passage omitted]

Barak Antimissile Missile Testing 'Successful'

TA0802145994 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Feb 94 p 5

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The testing phase of antimissile missile Barak have been completed, and the Israeli Navy will procure its first Barak system in the coming months.

"Baraqi completed a three-part series of tests at the end of last year, and all three tests were successful." This was revealed yesterday by a senior Israeli Navy figure. He added that the Navy plans to install this missile system on the Saar 5 missile boats which are being built in the United States, and on some of the Saar 4.5 vessels.

The Barak missile is the result of a joint REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] and IAI [Israel Aircraft Industries] development. The missile's range is about 10 km, and it can hit a pinpointed target. The missile will be mounted on Saar 5 and Saar 4.5 as the central defense weapon system. The senior figure said that Barak is the best missile of its kind in the world, and its uniqueness lies in its ability to intercept low-flying missiles cruising a few meters above water. The missile can be also used against attacking aircraft.

In the last three tests, the missile was fired from a naval platform, and it intercepted a Gabriel ship-to-ship missile. In one of the tests, Barak hit Gabriel as it had been programmed, while in the other two tests, it passed a short distance from it—also in accordance with the programming which sought to collect data about the missile's performance.

Justice Official Appointed to UN Committee

TA0802151994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Dr. Karmel Shalev of the Justice Ministry's Legislation Department has been elected to serve as a member of the UN committee on uprooting discrimination against women.

In a vote held yesterday at the UN center in New York, 63 countries from all continents voted in favor of Dr. Shalev's appointment, and she defeated candidates from Russia and Poland. The Foreign Ministry considers her selection a continuation of the trend of appointing Israelis to serve on UN institutions.

YI'UD Secretariat Elects Party Officials

TA0902055794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Gonen Segev was elected chairman of YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] last night in the first meeting of the movement's secretariat. MK Ester Salmovitz was elected chairman of the Central Committee and the movement's president. MK Alex Goldfarb was elected faction chairman. The secretariat will be made up of 20 members.

Three 'Terrorists' Given Life Sentences for Murder

TA0602084594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] This morning, the three terrorists who murdered Li'or Tubul, Ronen Qaramani, Rafi Doron, and Yehoshu'a Friedberg were given four consecutive life sentences each. Two of them were given additional 20 years in prison for attempted murder. The Jerusalem District Court handed down the sentence after convicting them upon their own admission.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that in an unprecedented move, the president of the court did not allow one of the defendants to complete his statement before the sentence was issued in view of the political nature of his remarks, as the judge put it. After the sentencing, Qaramani's brother tried to attack one of the murderers, but was stopped.

King Comments on Cabinet Meeting Discussions

Notes Peace Process

JN0802181094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Report by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, Jordan TV correspondent for political affairs]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has chaired a cabinet meeting in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. His majesty reviewed the results of his recent visit to the United States, Austria, and Croatia. His majesty also reviewed the results of his recent visit to Syria.

The discussion during the cabinet session also dealt with a number of domestic issues. His majesty talked about the importance of maintaining the people's water, food, and medicine supplies, as well as meeting their basic needs. The king noted that we are facing a phase of challenges, adding that the Jordanian people should be well prepared to face this phase.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali briefed his majesty on the mechanism through which the best services are being rendered to people in all fields of life.

King Husayn told journalists at the end of the cabinet session that every effort is being made to provide the best possible services to the Jordanian citizens, noting that we all always work to underscore the need to care for them.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] This was an opportunity to brief the brothers on a part of what took place. Naturally, the prime minister was abreast of all that took place during my absence. Again, I underscored my absolute confidence in, and my gratitude and appreciation for, the prime minister and this government for the services they are providing to the homeland under these delicate circumstances and with our great hopes for the future. Naturally, we reviewed many projects and many studies in general, and some in detail.

[Dhiyab] Your Majesty, in your capacity as the sponsor of Yemeni reconciliation, what are the most recent developments?

[Husayn] We hope our brothers in Yemen will succeed in ending what they are dealing with in this phase. We also hope that we will have the honor of hosting their meeting in Amman to save Yemen now and open the road for a prosperous future, God willing. We have given our utmost, and we will be very happy to see an opportunity to resolve and tackle the existing problems within the Arab community. We responded throughout this to the desire of the two parties of our brothers in Yemen. We always appreciate the confidence they have placed in us. We ask God to grant us success in assuming our duty toward them.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, how do you view the future of the peace process in light of the recent developments and in light of your recent efforts represented in your visit to the United States and to Damascus? And what are the results of the last round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks?

[Husayn] I believe that as things go on, we monitor what is happening within our utmost capabilities. Our basic stand is to support the Palestinian brothers with regard to their rights on their national soil. I cannot say that the present coordination is as it should be. With regard to Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon coordination is normal. Praise be to God, the situation is good, reassuring, and promising. The recent meetings achieved some progress. With regard to Jordan, we concentrate on the agenda and on its topics. As with regard to the whole world, everybody hopes that this march, which has passed the point of no return, will continue until we reach a just and comprehensive solution that will be accepted by the coming generations.

[Reporter] Sir, what are the most prominent topics you discussed during your visit to sisterly Syria?

[Husayn] First, I had a duty to fulfill toward a big and dear brother who was hard hit by a mournful event, which hit me and hit us all, as a result of his loss of his son, whom I also considered as my son. So, I had to pay this visit immediately after my return. We also reviewed the peace process, bilateral cooperation, all issues in the region, the contacts we made in the world both on the part of his excellency the president and on my part. I emerged very satisfied with the results of this visit.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, with regard to martyr Na'ib al-Ma'aytah and the Lebanese Government's arrest of the criminals who carried out this operation. What are the measures to be taken by the Jordanian Government regarding this?

[Husayn] We are following the issue with great concern and determination to reach what is required regarding such a hideous crime. We appreciate the efforts that the brothers in Lebanon have exerted and are exerting to reveal all the objectives and dimensions of this crime. I cannot say more than this at this point. [end recording]

Reviews Trip Abroad

JN0802202394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, today visited the Prime Ministry, where he met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended.

His majesty chaired part of the Cabinet session, during which his majesty emphasized his support for and constant confidence in the prime minister and ministers.

His majesty was briefed by the prime minister on the most important topics discussed during the Cabinet session, especially the general tax on sales and agricultural conditions in the Jordan Valley.

His majesty reviewed his visits to the United States, Croatia, and Austria, saying these visits were very successful. He said: In the United States, emphasis was placed on the fact that peace must be comprehensive and just and that Jordan cannot accept the idea of signing a peace treaty and then go back to discuss its provisions. The matters agreed upon in the common agenda must be discussed first and when they are all resolved, then discussion of a peace treaty can start within the framework of the principle of comprehensiveness.

In this regard, his majesty said that some of the provisions of the agenda could be implemented before signing the peace treaty. If agreement is reached on territory or borders, then Jordan will regain its waters within this context. He also said he found understanding and positive response from President Clinton and the U.S. Administration on this point in particular.

Regarding his visit to Croatia, his majesty stressed that the Jordanian soldiers there are fulfilling their duties with a great degree of service and without bias and are demonstrating good manners and prudence. He said the Jordanian peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslavia is the second largest international force after France. He also said he was pleased to meet with the soldiers there.

Regarding his visit to Austria, his majesty said he met with Austria's current and former presidents, as well as the Austrian chancellor. He said he found a readiness and understanding to increase cooperation between Jordan and Austria.

As for his visit to Syria, his majesty said the visit was primarily made to offer condolences to President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his son. He said they also discussed issues within the context of coordination between the two countries. His majesty briefed President al-Asad on the impression created with the U.S. side on the meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. His majesty said he found that the U.S. President created a positive impression of his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

His majesty then moved to speak about domestic issues. He stressed the need to pay attention to the individual, stressing that attention must always be given to the individual, especially regarding his material needs, water, food, and medicine. He said we must always develop scientific and technological resources within this context and follow the correct standards and specifications that will enable us to protect the individual and provide the best quality products for his basic needs.

His majesty said: We must pay attention to the individual's education, especially at this phase. There are many challenges awaiting us in the coming phase which dictate that the individual must always be ready to bear and confront the challenges that may face him in the future.

His majesty touched on certain domestic issues that must be addressed by the government, particularly the fight against narcotics, administrative control and reform, and awarding productive employees and punishing wrongdoers. He said we must address our issues with some degree of precision, because generalization may create a distorted image of Jordan, especially since some people may try to take advantage of this situation.

Some ministers then reviewed some of the activities conducted by their ministries.

At the end of the session, his majesty gave statements to reporters. [passage omitted]

Views Coordination With Palestinians

JN0802210094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] His majesty the king said Jordan was following developments in the case of the assassinated Jordanian diplomat, Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, and highly evaluated the Lebanese Government's efforts with regards to the ugly crime. Speaking to reporters at the Prime Ministry, the king expressed hope for a quick solution to the Yemeni crisis, and said Jordan would be honored to host its leaders to sign a reconciliation accord. His majesty also said Jordan would always support the Palestinians to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil. However, the king said, coordination with the Palestinians was not yet satisfactory, unlike that with Syria and Lebanon.

His majesty told the "News at Ten" of his absolute confidence in the prime minister and the cabinet:

[Begin Husayn recording, in progress] ... the meeting and I had the pleasure of speaking with the ministers of all that happened during the period when I was away, and in the same time hearing from them some of their views, and having an idea about what they were meeting to accomplish in this very day, and to reemphasize my complete confidence in the prime minister and in every minister for their efforts. And my hope that they will not lose heart, but that they will keep going in serving this country to the best of their abilities in the times ahead. Hopefully, the same case will apply to the parliament, the legislative branch, and the cooperation will further solidify the foundations that are paved in this country in terms of democracy and respect for human rights. [end recording]

The king had earlier chaired part of today's Cabinet meeting and discussed recent developments in Jordan as well as his majesty's visits to the United States, Austria, and Croatia.

The king, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the chief of the Royal Court, reaffirmed the importance of the human element, particularly with regards to food and medicine.

Al-Majali, Fatah's Bal'awi Review Peace Process

JN0802185494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has received Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central

Committee. The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman, also attended the meeting.

Al-Majali on Serb Aggression, Diplomat, Cinema Blasts

JN0802192994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpts] The Senate today held a session under speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi to discuss a number of subjects on its agenda.

Details in the following report by Jamal al-'Abbadi:

[Begin al-'Abbadi recording] The Senate denounced the Serb aggression on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the ongoing ethnic cleansing drive targeting the republic's peaceful people. A statement issued by the Senate today appealed to the international community to take military action to stop the aggression and lift the arms embargo on the republic to enable the Bosnians to defend themselves. [passage omitted]

Responding to a request by Senator Hammad al-Ma'ayitah, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar said investigations are still continuing into the martyrdom of Na'ib 'Imran al-Ma'ayitah, counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, and the explosive devices that went off in Cinema Rivoli in Amman and Cinema Salwa in al-Zarqa'. The government, he said, can not, for the time being, go further than the facts revealed by the interior minister. The deputy prime minister praised the watchful eye of Jordan's public security agencies. [end recording]

Interior Minister Discloses Sabotage Attempts

JN0902132494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has stated that a group of saboteurs has recently been apprehended. The group was planning to blow up public places and assassinate a number of intellectuals.

Replying to a question at a House of Representatives session held today under the speakership of Tahir al-Masri and attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the interior minister added:

[Begin recording] [Salamah Hammad] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Almighty God has said: Remember, Abraham said: O my Lord! Make this city one of peace and security. [Koranic verse]

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies: With the help of God, this country will remain secure because the Almighty has blessed our country with a leadership believing in God and sincere in performing its duty, and because this country has qualified security organs that believe in their duty to protect the homeland and the citizen. We do not brag about that because they are all your sons and brothers, people of this country. However, they deserve admiration, appreciation, and respect.

Recently, a group or groups of people have been arrested. They sought to harm this country. They had aims, which included plans to blow up public places. These included the House of Representatives, considering it a state institution. They also planned to blow up places such as cinemas, video shops, and night clubs; assassinate a number of intellectuals and economists in this country; rob banks, considering them usurious establishments; attack police foot patrols and seize their weapons and also attack intelligence men; and attack public places.

Four crimes against supermarkets, taxi drivers, and a liquor store were carried out. They also committed crimes in the Rivoli Cinema in Amman and the Salwa Cinema in al-Zarqa', as you heard and as we announced. An explosive charge planted in Zahran Cinema in Amman was defused and did not explode.

Yesterday, a group of persons were arrested. They had in their possession two bombs intended to be detonated in Irbid, and another two in al-Salt.

This morning we received information that a bomb had been planted in al-Hashimiyah Square [in Amman]. All measures were taken, but the bomb was not found. Last night we received word about a bomb in the al-Nasr Cinema in al-Zarqa' and we investigated that this morning.

In fact, brothers, investigations are going on and efforts are continuing. In reply to the brothers' questions, I wanted to clarify these points, and all details will be announced when the investigations are completed.

The eyes of your sons, the men of all security organs will remain open, with God's help, to serve this steadfast country.

This is what I have, Mr. Speaker, at present. When the investigations are completed, we will announce all dimensions of this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Tahir al-Masri] Thank you Mr. Minister, and thank you all for these efforts that, with God's help, will keep this country safe and secure. [end recording]

'Brutal Aggression' Against Sarajevo Denounced

JN0802193494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 94

["Text" of statement issued by the Jordanian Government on "the savage aggression against innocent Muslims in Sarajevo;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Jordanian Government has followed with deep concern the reports on the painful and bloody massacre to which Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was exposed and in which a large number of defenseless civilian children, women, and elderly people were killed.

As the Jordanian Government denounces the brutal aggression against innocent Muslims in Sarajevo and strongly condemns this fierce barbarism, which ignores all values, ideals, and human rights, it calls on the international community to move immediately to shoulder its responsibility to save the innocent Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the continuing aggression and to work toward ending the siege on the Bosnian capital.

The Jordanian Government appeals to the UN Security Council, the United Nations, and human rights organization to work earnestly to stop the bloodshed and achieve security, tranquility, and peace for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina who are being exposed, day and night, to human rights violations before the eyes of the world.

Japanese Official Received by King, Awarded Medal

JN0802194994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Majesty King Husayn received (Yusashi Awadi), adviser to the Japanese foreign minister, who is currently visiting Jordan. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting.

His Majesty King Husayn awarded the Japanese guest the al-Kawkab Medal of the First Class.

The meeting was also attended by the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Japan

JN0702074494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Japan and Jordan Sunday [6 February] signed an agreement rescheduling over $14 million in Jordan's debts owed to Japan.

The agreement, signed by Finance Minister Sami Qammuh and Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda, followed a decision in June by the Paris Club of major government creditors to ease Jordan's foreign debts.

Under the accord, Japan will reschedule installments on arrears from July 1993 until February 1994, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The sum will be added to a previously rescheduled amount of $87.3 million dollars, it added.

The deal provides for a grace period of nine years for government debts and seven years for government-guaranteed commercial loans.

Planning Minister Signs German Loan Agreements

JN0702212494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Two financial agreements and two memorandums were signed between Jordan and the German Government at the Ministry of Planning today. According to these agreements and memorandums, the German Government will grant Jordan soft loans and grants to finance several development projects in Jordan. Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz signed the agreements for the Jordanian Government, while the German ambassador in Amman signed for Germany.

Dr. Fariz spoke to our correspondent 'Atif Nusur after the signing of the agreements, saying:

[Begin Fariz recording] The agreements concern a very important project, namely, the establishment of water networks and two water purification stations in the southern part of the city of Irbid and neighboring villages. The project will benefit 15 villages in the governorate. The loan agreement that was signed to implement this project stipulates that the German Government will grant Jordan a soft loan totaling some 76 million German marks. This loan will contribute to financing the projects implemented by the Water Authority.

The Bank [not further identified] also granted Jordan a grant of 2 million marks to implement the greater Amman water project. This grant will finance studies on this project. Besides, both sides signed memorandums on grants, rather than loans. According to these memorandums, the German agencies will provide technical training to hospital personnel. The Royal Medical Services Corps will be the main beneficiary from such training. The competent German agencies will provide this medical institution with modern medical technology. Its personnel will be provided with training. Moreover, the German agencies will provide maintenance at hospitals in general, and at the Husayn Medical Center in particular. This grant totals some 2.7 million marks. The agreements are also meant to finance energy research and development projects, particularly those pertaining to renewable energy resources. These projects are being implemented by the Royal Scientific Society. They are primarily aimed at developing solar geysers and fans, and launching laboratories devoted to energy development and other scientific research that could promote Jordan's capabilities in this regard. The cost of these projects total some 2 million marks, 1.8 million, to be exact. The German Government has, from the outset, aided Jordan's endeavors in this regard. [end recording]

'Efforts' Target Israeli Antiquities Excavations

JN0602163894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned from official sources that competent agencies have made efforts regarding the excavations Israel is making in search of antiquities in the border areas, which encroach on the antiquities of the Jordanian territories.

The sources said Jordanian efforts in this regard came about following Western news reports of Israeli excavations searching for antiquities in the Qumran area north of the Dead Sea. The Qumran area is believed to be the home of important historical scrolls that date back to the first century A.D.

The sources indicated the Qumran area is Jordanian territory that Israel occupied in the aftermath of the 1967 war. The Israeli occupation of this territory is believed to be listed on the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations, in order to ensure its return to Jordanian sovereignty.

Prosecutor General To Probe Food, Drug Charges

JN0702081294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 94 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The government will ask the general prosecutor to investigate charges raised by Minister of Health 'Abd al-Rahim Malhas that a good quantity of food and medicine that reaches the market is unfit for consumption, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Sunday [6 February].

Dr. al-Majali said the government would provide the general prosecutor with all information it has on the case and ask him to collect other relevant information from the public and the Lower House of Parliament.

Instructions will be issued to all government departments to "put all official documents they have at the disposal of the general prosecutor," Dr al-Majali told the House at the end of a three-day session held to discuss Dr. Malhas' charges that appeared in a weekly tabloid over two weeks ago.

Dr. al-Majali said people suspected of violating regulations related to food and medicine standards would be referred to court.

House Speaker Tahir al-Masri asked the Public Freedoms and General Health committees to provide the House with a report on the results of investigations that they have launched into the issue in two weeks.

"The executive authority has prime responsibility in initiating reform and taking immediate and decisive measures (on the food and medicine situation). The responsibilities of the (House) are no less important and the House has to shoulder them through following up and monitoring the measures the government will take and putting them in the right direction," Mr. al-Masri said at the end of the session in which 37 deputies spoke on Dr. Malhas' charges.

"If it becomes necessary, the House will take all measures that the Constitution and laws make available to it (to ensure this)," Mr. al-Masri said.

Mr. al-Masri said the public's response to Dr. al-Malhas' charges show their thirst for reform in all government agencies, and asserted that the House would continue to check the government's actions "in all fields."

Twenty-seven out of the 37 deputies who spoke on the issue supported Dr. Malhas, while seven severely criticised him for "failing" to substantiate his charges and not presenting a reform programme. Four legislators adopted neutrality but demanded thorough investigations into the charges that have landed the government in its worst political crisis since it won the confidence of the house in December.

Many opposition deputies lashed out at the government during the debate, saying the government was "incapable" of initiating reform. Over 19 deputies, including the Islamic Action Front's (IAF) members, urged a vote of no-confidence in the government over the issue.

Deputies who opposed Dr. Malhas criticised him for failing to go through "proper channels" to raise the issue, failing to prove his charges and shaking public confidence in the safety of food and medicine and "hurting Jordan's reputation and its national economy."

Those who supported the minister expressed appreciation of his "courage" in speaking out about alleged corruption and determination to fight what he described as a "mafia" of drug and food merchants who sought fast profits at the expense of the people and their safety.

Some deputies lashed out at the Ministry of Supply for allegedly allowing the entry of shipments of sub-standard food into the market, with one lawmaker saying he would request a "general discussion" of the situation at the ministry in order to investigate alleged cases of violations of the law.

In his speech to the House, Dr. al-Majali reaffirmed the government's commitment to protect the citizens in cooperation with the House. But he took a firm stand against deputies who questioned his cabinet's abilities and determination to fight corruption and bring about reform.

Responding to the severe criticism that deputies made of his cabinet, Dr. al-Majali said some deputies seized "the opportunity to shake the status of the government. But we say here in front of you (that) we hide nothing from you and have provided you with all (the information) you demanded... we have nothing to hide or to fear."

Dr. al-Majali said some deputies were still addressing the government with slanderous language.

"But we will not respond to these accusations and will stick to (proper) norms of talking... out of our concern for consolidating democracy," which benefitted from the debate that took place in the House over Dr. Malhas' allegations, Dr. al-Majali told the lawmakers.

Dr. al-Majali said that cases of corruption and abuse of office in Jordan were an exception, saying that they do not exceed similar violations in any other country.

"I assure you that our food is safe and that our medicine is safe," said Dr. al-Majali.

But, he said, the government would take more measures to ensure the safety of food and medicine and raise the standards governing the safety and quality of food and medicine.

He said the government would prepare draft laws to establish separate food and medicine directorates and to prevent monopolies in producing and marketing food and medicine.

He said the government had asked the finance minister to take measures against medicine merchants if it was proven that they charged exorbitant profits.

In comments to the press and later in a speech to the House, Dr. Malhas said there was a deficiency in laws governing the sale of drug and food in the country and some traders were reaping exorbitant profits.

In a response to the deputies' speeches on Sunday, Dr. Malhas reiterated these charges but said the Ministry of Health, with the suport of the government, had started a process of reform that would plug all loopholes in legislations.

"The government will not allow the entry (into the market) of any food and medicine shipments that does not meet (standards and specifications)," Dr. Malhas told the House.

Dr. Malhas said the ministry in 1993 referred thousands of violators of the law to courts and would continue to take measures against any new violations.

Dr. Malhas denied that he was in disagreement with the prime minister over the need to fight corruption. He reiterated earlier statements that the disagreement with Dr. al-Majali that he mentioned in his press interview was restricted to the interpretation of the law on pharmacies.

Dr. al-Majali also denied that he had any differences over the issue with the health minister.

Former Minister of Health and serving Deputy 'Arif al-Batayinah agreed with Dr. Malhas that pressure was "sometimes" applied on the Ministry of Health but said available laws empower the minister to resist such pressures.

Dr. al-Batayinah cited incidents that occurred during his work as minister of health and director of the Royal Medical Services to prove that laws were sufficient to ensure the safety of food and medicine and to refer violators of the law to courts.

He also confirmed that foreign countries sometimes apply pressure to get their exports to Jordan approved for sale, citing an alleged threat by the Indian minister of trade that if Jordan did not approve an already rejected shipment of Indian meat, "our exports of phosphates will be negatively affected."

But as minister of health, he said, he rejected the shipment and nobody could force him to accept it.

"Wouldn't it have been better for the health minister to refer the violators to court unless a certain group prevented him from using his authority," said Dr. al-Batayinah.

Deputy Nazih al-'Ammarin, who pledged support for Dr. Malhas, also provided examples to show the drug merchants charge exorbitant profits. He said manufacturing, importing and sale of medicine were in the hands of few "sharks" who resist reform.

"There is a confidence gap between the citizens and officials and hence is the big noise that this issue has caused," said Deputy Muhammad Abu-'Alim, voicing support for Dr. Malhas in the fight against corruption.

"I thanked God when I heard about the food and medicine that are unfit for consumption because most people in the Jordan Valley do not eat meat," said Deputy Jamil al-Hushush in a reference to poverty in his constituency.

"Our children do not drink powered milk," said Mr. al-Hushush as about 20 farmers from the valley declared a hunger-strike to demand measures to help them fight poverty in what they called a "disaster area."

Jordanian Envoy Comments on Diplomat's Death

NC0802121394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[News conference by Jordanian Ambassador Fakhri Abu-Talib with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 8 February—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Talib] I visited the interior minister today to thank him for his interest since the time of the crime [29 January assassination of Jordanian diplomat] and for instructing the security departments to take all the necessary measures to divulge the circumstances of the incident. I also thanked him for his condolences, which he conveyed to the embassy, on a common calamity that has pained us and all the Lebanese.

Such incidents will not affect Jordan or Lebanon. They can happen anywhere. I do not believe this incident will deflect the Jordanians from the correct course and the wise policy pursued by the king.

[Correspondent] Have you identified the motives of the crime?

[Abu-Talib] The motives and the investigation are in the hands of the Interior Ministry and the security departments; they are the ones qualified to make statements on the investigation. We are not conducting the investigation.

[Correspondent] There is talk .... [incomplete sentence as heard]

[Abu-Talib] I cannot confirm or deny who the culprits are. We are being put in the picture but we are not the ones authorized to officially state where the investigation has reached.

[Correspondent] Will Jordan demand the culprits' extradition?

[Abu-Talib] This is premature.

[Correspondent] Is it true there was a political message to the Jordanian regime behind the incident?

[Abu-Talib] According to my own analysis, the motives for the incident were political and were intended to harm both Jordan and Lebanon. The perpetrators were criminals supported by agent regimes, which still resort to such incidents.

[Correspondent] Who are these agent regimes?

[Abu-Talib] I cannot identify them. As I told you, those who committed this criminal act did not serve the interest of Lebanon or the Arab nation.

[Correspondent] Are they Arab or non-Arab regimes?

[Abu-Talib] Soon you will start interrogating me.

[Correspondent] Today's reports say the culprits are Palestinians, do they not?

[Abu-Talib] I heard what you heard.

[Correspondent] Have you confirmed this?

[Abu-Talib] We have not.

[Correspondent] Do you suspect any particular quarter?

[Abu-Talib] We hold nearly all the main leads. But we cannot tell the press because we do not want to infringe upon Lebanese security or the judicial authorities in Lebanon and play a role that is not ours to play.

Abu-Nidal Group Denies Link

NC0802201894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC], led by Abu-Nidal, denied today that it is connected with the murder 10 days ago of a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut.

In a statement released in Beirut, the movement said: We affirm that we have no connection, either closely or distantly, with the assassination of the first secretary [as heard] of the Jordanian Embassy in Lebanon.

The FRC statement asserted its confidence in the Lebanese judiciary and its integrity. The statement accused various agencies and parties of being behind this well-devised scenario, as the FRC statement put it.

'Resistance' Activities in South Updated

NC0802130694 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] At around 1145 today, the Lebanese resistance shelled and launched several attacks on the Israeli positions in al-Ghizlan and Sujud. The Israeli forces retaliated with intensive artillery bombardment of several villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The clashes later developed into artillery duels between Tallat Sujud and the resistance positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah in which 155-mm and 120-mm artillery was used. Israeli aircraft flew intensive sorties over the central and western sectors and over Tyre, breaking the sound barrier more than once.

According to our correspondent in al-Biqa', a South Lebanese Army [SLA] foot patrol of 12, backed by a tank, crossed the contact line in the Zhaghlah-Hasbayya sector at 1000 today, advanced 2 km north of the security zone toward Mimis valley, and stopped 1 km from the Lebanese Army positions. The Army personnel in the area were placed on alert and took up combat positions. The SLA patrol returned to its position at 1200. Our correspondent said that Israeli Merkava tanks were spotted moving along the Kawkaba axis and fired five artillery shells at the al-Dallafi-Jabal al-Dahr axis.

Israel Reinforces Posts; Hizballah Fighter Killed

NC0802190894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpts] The Israeli forces have deployed an artillery battery consisting of four 155-mm guns near al-'Ayshiyah. The enemy troops consolidated the posts of Tumat Niha, al-Surayri hills, Burghuz, and al-Kassarat with four Merkava tanks. M-113 armored personnel carriers have been deployed in bunkers and trenches around the aforementioned posts. Mechanized vehicular movement has been noticed in the Kawkaba area. The Israeli troops brought in a number of mechanized vehicles, four long-range 202-mm guns, and three 175- mm guns from the occupied Arab territories into their posts in al- Khiyam and Marj 'Uyun area. They set up three observation towers on hills overlooking the roads, forests, and tracks near Kafr Huna and al-'Ayshiyah and supplied them with binoculars, flash lights, and mechanized vehicles.

Security sources have stated that the occupation troops this afternoon defused an explosive device to which two rockets were attached that was planted along the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road. [passage omitted]

Hizballah today announced that one of its members was martyred during the ambush that the resistance fighters laid for an Israeli security patrol along the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road yesterday.

Hizballah Deputy Urges State Not To Remain 'Spectator'

NC0802124794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Referring to Israeli threats, Shaykh Nabil Qawuq, a Hizballah deputy in the south, has stated that the resistance will not stand idly by in the face of Israeli escalation. He noted that it is no longer acceptable for the state to remain as a spectator. In a statement today, Qawuq called on the state to adopt a responsible stance and to prepare to face these threats.

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives in Damascus on Visit

JN0802194094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 1900 today.

He was received upon arrival at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, ministers, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Mr. Khaddam and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah drove in an official motorcade to Tishrin Palace, where the guest prince will be staying.

His highness is accompanied by an official delegation including Prince Samir Bin-Faysal Bin-'Abdallah, Prince Nayif al-Sha'lan, and Hamad al-Hammudah, minister for the crown prince's private affairs.

Al-Asad, Crown Prince Meet

JN0902074794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening, President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

His Highness Prince 'Abdallah offered condolences to the president over the homeland's loss of Staff Major Paratrooper Engineer Basil al-Asad.

During the meeting, they discussed the Arab situation and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Kuwaiti Prime Minister

JN0702143894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad all-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him at 1300 today. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Algerian President's Envoy

JN0802185194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] At 1300 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Mohamed (Saidi), chief of the Algerian presidential office and envoy of the president, the Algerian ambassador in Damascus, and the Algerian Embassy staff. (Saidi) gave the president a message from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, in which he extends his personal and the Algerian people's condolences over the death of Staff Major Basil al-Asad. They talked about Arab and world issues, as well as Algerian developments. Mr. (Saidi) conveyed President Zeroual's appreciation for President al-Asad's efforts to advance Arab causes and supreme Arab interests. He expressed Algeria's interest in more advanced ties with Syria in all fields. His excellency the president thanked the Algerian president for his sympathies and his appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab stands. President al-Asad told him Syria wished to see relations with brotherly Algeria grow further.

U.S. Conditions for Terrorist List Removal Cited

NC0802115894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 7

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Political sources have stated that preparations are under way to hold a meeting between the Syrian Foreign Minister and the U.S. Secretary of State to discuss the removal of Syria's name from the list of states that support terrorism. The meeting will discuss the conditions which U.S. President Bill Clinton conveyed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during their recent meeting in Geneva. The sources said these conditions are:

1. Syria should support the U.S. efforts to fight the current of fundamentalist terrorism in the region by handing over files on the Iranian personalities who support this current, on Iran's role in giving material support for this, and on Iran's present contacts with some Arab personalities to intensify the fundamentalist terrorists' operations.

In this regard, the United States has asked Syria to disclose the intricate details of Iranian-Syrian relations. Clinton alleged that the United States has information that Syrian intelligence services have complete files in this connection.

2. Syria should halt the Palestinian factions opposing the peace process and turn over to Israel about 23 Palestinians wanted for committing serious (terrorist) incidents where killed many Israeli citizens were killed. These individuals are living under the protection of the Syrian regime.

3. Syria should halt all forms of support for the pro-Iranian Hizballah forces in Lebanon and hand over files regarding Hizballah's plans, the main figures behind the terrorist operations, and the Iranian personalities who have direct influence in Iran.

4. Syria should condemn the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

The sources said there are some differences between the two sides regarding the U.S. conditions. Contacts are under way to narrow these differences and bring about a meeting between the Syrian foreign minister and the U.S. Secretary of State.

Commentary on Peace Process, U.S. Interests

JN0502182094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is clear that Israel is deliberately dragging out the Arab-Israeli peace talks as part of a scheme that seeks to disperse the momentum produced by the Geneva summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. That same scheme also seeks to exhaust the efforts and patience of the Arab parties one after the other, force them into positions different from their current ones, and push them into signing separate deals that are not based on the UN Security Council resolutions governing the region's peace process.

With the absence of the Security Council resolutions, everything can be subject to interpretation and different readings, like the Oslo agreement. Everything can also be subject to extortion and procrastination. What is agreed upon now can be violated tomorrow. In such agreements, the rights of the weak will be lost and the powerful evil can gain supremacy.

We say this because the Washington talks on the level of heads of delegations ended without any progress. Israel expected, and even wanted to see, such a result even before they started. The World was expecting positive results, especially after the great momentum given to the peace process by the Geneva summit. Nothing was preventing the achievement of decisive progress on the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks. Syria explained its concept of peace and its position was supported by the United States and the world. Israel was supposed to pledge complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the occupied territories in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace. But, as usual, Israel maneuvered, procrastinated, and once again raised the issue of its security concerns.

In this regard, we recall a statement by Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he stated publicly that he was planning for talks lasting several years so that the world will forget the Middle East question. It appears that what Shamir said is being implemented now in letter and spirit. The Washington talks have entered their third year with no signs of an impending agreement. The positions remain the same. Israel is avoiding the requirement of the complete withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, insists on subjugating the Palestinian people, confiscates their land to give to settlers, and treats the Palestinian people in a manner that runs contrary to all charters and principles of the United Nations and human rights. It murders, destroys, sets fires, and erects further detention centers in violation of all international laws. At the same time, it continues its aggressions against southern Lebanon. Today is so similar to yesterday and the day before because nothing has changed in Israel's behavior and conduct. Everything is being done as if the Madrid Conference had not been convened and as if the Washington talks were a mere opportunity to kill time.

With its course of maneuvering, procrastinating, and emptying the peace talks of any substance, Israel seeks to frustrate the Arab parties first, and then the world so the world will reach the point of despair concerning the Middle East question and the stage will be set for Israel to exercise its arrogance, extortion, and aggression.

Israel is trying to surpass the results of Geneva summit, which revived the world's hope in the possibility of reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and torpedo its dynamism by dragging out the talks in Washington, by reviving procedural matters, by raising the security excuses, and by avoiding as much as possible the substance of the talks; namely, the exchange of land for peace. Israel is avoiding the future of the territory and gives priority to security before peace as if peace were not the ideal guarantee for the security of states in the region.

However, Israel's old-new game is not hidden from the world, particularly the sponsoring party of the peace process. In Geneva, the United States committed itself before the world to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace based on the UN Security Council resolutions. The United States must intervene at the right time to put things in order because the collapse of the peace process will only bring great harm to world stability and U.S. interests.

Commentary: Geneva Summit Defines Nature of Peace

JN0302151994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has admitted that Syria is serious about the establishment of peace and that it has always honored its commitments and obligations. Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres cast doubts about the possibility of achieving a true breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track because, as he put it, the Syrian ice has not yet thawed. In fact, Peres and other Israeli officials are making contradictory statements every day and deliberately casting doubt about Syria's peaceful intentions.

The Geneva summit, which has given strong momentum to the peace process and, according to Peres himself, breathed new life into the peace process, has proved Syria's credibility to the entire world. This is demonstrated by the fact that all U.S. officials, led by President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher, have praised Syria's positive and constructive stand and its determined effort to build a just, comprehensive Middle East peace. This is also demonstrated by the fact the entire international community has praised President Hafiz al-Asad's genuine interest in peace and his call to establish the peace of the brave in the region. Such a peace requires Israel to rise to the level of the aspirations of the region and the world.

Syria agreed to hold the current talks in Washington in appreciation of the U.S. role and in the hope that Israel will change its previous policies, put an end to the policy of intransigence and maneuvering, and respond to the UN security Council resolutions regulating the peace process. Right from the first session, the head of the Israeli delegation to Washington said the talks were held in a businesslike atmosphere. However, the Israeli officials soon tarnished this positivity with their negative statements. Following an Israeli request, it was agreed to hold the

Washington talks away from the media. This is understandable, since it is known that the Israeli rulers call for secret negotiations. However, Israeli officials are making statements daily that cast doubt on the Washington talks.

Insisting on playing the same tune, Israeli officials still demand a definition of the nature of peace, despite tha fact that the Geneva summit clearly specified the nature of peace and stressed Syria's readiness to implement all requirements of a just, comprehensive regional peace.

However, definitely running amid noise and clamor and deliberately raising doubts in all directions, Israeli officials want a separate deal that is closer to a spectacle than to a peace, such as the Oslo agreement. Brought about by secret talks, the Oslo agreement has faced, and its still facing, obstacles.

If there is any positivity in the current Washington talks, then it is definitely the result of the positive Syrian position, not the Israeli position, which has not yet rid itself of the policy of maneuvering and procrastination. Syria has expressly declared its readiness to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region and to abide by all its requirements. But has Israel declared its readiness to enforce UN Security Council resolutions and to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights? Syria is still awaiting the answer.

If there is any ice, then it is definitely on the Israeli side, rather than on the Syrian side. If Rabin admits that Syria is serious about the establishment of peace, what prevents Israel, knowing that the ball is now at its court, from declaring commitment to full withdrawal, instead of casting doubt, raising its endless security fears, and threatening to hold a referendum on the Golan and peace with Syria?

At this point, we recall statements by Rabin and other Israeli officials that Israel will not declare readiness to withdraw from the Golan before Syria defines the nature of peace. The Geneva summit defined the nature of peace. The world is still awaiting a statement by Israel on its readiness for full withdrawal.

Peace in the region is a matter of occupied territories and usurped rights. Consequently, peace requires an end to occupation and the restoration of land and rights. Unless it is just and comprehensive, peace in the region stands no chance of lasting. Certainly, peace is not separate deals made behind the scenes, evading the hopes and aspirations of the region's countries. Peace cannot mean capitulation to Israel and an acknowledgement of the legitimacy of its occupation and settlements.

Syria will always adhere to a just, comprehensive peace. It will never budge from this stand. No one in the world will blame Syria for this brave stand. Nay, the world supports Syria's quest for a just, comprehensive peace, especially since the world has seen the failures of separate deals. Undoubtedly, the world is expecting Israel to adopt the long-awaited positive stand.

TISHRIN: Any Compromise on Golan Said 'Out of Question'

JN0702102994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Defiance," TISHRIN says: When the Israelis do not wish to understand, they exhibit an amazing ability to defy all facts. Thus, they are dealing with the outside world as if it is blind, deaf, and mute. In an interview with CNN, the Israeli prime minister said he did not directly or indirectly hear that Syria is prepared for full peace, adding that he knows, however, what Syria wants from Israel in return for peace.

TISHRIN continues: Although Syria never conceals its resolve to restore the occupied Golan, it has for years stressed adherence to the establishment of a just, comprehensive Middle East peace. Since the convocation of the Madrid conference, Syria has renewed this assertion hundreds of times. The recent Geneva summit was one occasion when Syria clearly explained its concept of peace and its nature. It also voiced its readiness to honor all peace requirements. Moreover, through President al-Asad, Syria called for concluding the peace of the brave. It also urged the Israeli leaders to rise to the level of the cause of peace and to have the necessary courage to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region and remove the Middle East from the cycle of war and conflicts.

TISHRIN continues: It sounds odd that while the entire world is convinced of Syria's credibility and honest quest for peace, praises its efforts and initiative, and values its stands, the Israeli rulers find no reason to be convinced. The paper notes Rabin's recent statement in which he said: We do not know what kind of peace will be agreed on, and to where we will pull out. The paper says: It must be reasserted that Syria is looking for a just, comprehensive peace; a durable, stable peace; a genuine peace that ends occupation and restores rights to their owners; a peace that is acceptable to the current Arab generations and worthy of being maintained by future generations. Such a peace must be honorable and must uproot injustice, oppression, and occupation.

TISHRIN explains that such a peace requires Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan. It says that Syria has frequently asserted that it will never bargain over an iota of the Golan soil nor will it relinquish an inch of it. Any compromise, which Israel wants, is absolutely out of question. The Golan Heights are Syrian and have been since time immemorial. They should be returned to the motherland and to their evacuated population, who are awaiting the establishment of peace to return to their homes.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Peace in the Middle East is no longer exclusively a Syrian or Arab issue. Rather, it is a world issue. The world will not allow that a unique peace opportunity be destroyed. Two years of Israeli intransigence have so far failed to destroy this opportunity.

Commentary: Israel 'Responsible' for Blocking Process

JN0602163094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The bilateral talks at the level of heads of delegations held in Washington since 24 January ended without any progress in the Middle East peace process. After two weeks of continued talks, Israel asked that these talks be suspended until 25 February. This shows the Israeli position is still the same in terms of intransigence, procrastination, and prevarication. It still adheres to all the obstacles threatening the peace process and continues to adopt proposals and ideas that will not achieve real, durable, and comprehensive peace.

This is revealed by Israeli assertions that issues have not reached fruition on the Israeli side and that circumstances are not yet conducive to achieving peace. No doubt, these flimsy pretexts conceal an Israeli attempt to sabotage the peace process, striking at its roots via a well-known policy of extending the period of talks and considering talks an end in themselves.

These Israeli efforts cannot be separated from practices designed to obstruct the peace process and to lay traps in its path. This is revealed by the Israeli Government's decision to expand two settlements in the Golan and to allow settlers to carry out this expansion with government support and sponsorship. No other evidence is needed that Israel does not want peace. These practices and positions all show, either directly or through impressions and maneuvering, that Israel still refuses to respond to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. Israel is hostile to the resolutions of international legitimacy that demand its withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Israel is being hostile to peace and is contradicting it. Even in its separate deal known as the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel is still procrastinating, prevaricating, and avoiding implementation.

Furthermore, the secret Oslo deal is still blocked, facing Israeli obstacles. Events and developments prove the Israeli plans cannot lead to the desired peace—a peace that secures the region's security and stability.

Hence, we believe that the Israeli positions and practices threaten not just the peace process, but also place the region in a state of continued disturbance and tension and spread an atmosphere of pessimism and darkness. Israel alone is responsible for this disturbed and worrying situation. It is responsible for the possible consequences of such a situation in terms of complications and reactions. This is because Israel's waste of the available peace opportunities has not been a coincidence. Each time, this has happened after careful considerations and planning. This is reaffirmed by Israel's refusal, inside and outside the talks, to speak about a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and by its refusal to stop settlement activities which are a manifestation of the occupation. This is also reaffirmed by Israel's refusal to comply with the basics and formula of the Madrid conference and by its disavowal of the principle of restoring the land in return for peace.

The continued Israeli rejection of all this is a rejection of peace and its requirements and of the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is because whoever is concerned about peace does not prevaricate, procrastinate, or deceive.

'Provocation' of Expanded Settlements Lamented

JN0402154094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli Government has endorsed the agriculture minister's plan to expand two settlements in occupied Syrian Golan by adding new housing complexes to sites in these two settlements on the pretext that this is necessary in order to promote Israeli security. The Israeli measure was taken as the Washington bilateral talks were under way at the chief delegates' level to make progress in the peace process, and as the international community was waiting for an Israeli response that would promote the cause of peace, one that would be commensurate with the hopes and aspirations created by the Geneva summit, to end the vicious cycle of wars and strife in the Middle East.

As a matter of fact, since the end of the Geneva summit, Israeli officials have been questioning the possible achievement of peace with Syria. They have been casting dark shadows on the outcome of the summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton, particularly since the summit has consecrated Syria's basic and key role in the peace process and underscored the need to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Israeli officials have admitted that the Washington talks produced satisfactory answers to their security concerns. Nonetheless, the Israeli negotiating team has failed to declare an Israeli commitment to complete withdrawal from the Golan. Instead, they suspended the negotiations for 10 days for consultations with their government. Meanwhile, the Arab delegations remained in Washington, awaiting the return of the Israeli teams with the required answers.

Could the decision to expand the two settlements in the occupied Golan be an indirect response to Syria's true and honest endeavors to establish a durable, just, and true peace in the Middle East? Observers are bound to say that the answer to this question is in the affirmative, especially since Israeli officials have, for some time, been attempting to belittle Syria's role in the peace process. They have cast doubts on the usefulness of the Geneva summit and Syria's intentions, as well. Worse still, they have also floated the idea of holding a referendum on the future of the Golan—something which has taken international quarters by surprise. Since its inception, Israel has never held referendums. Its laws do not authorize referendums. The Knesset has to pass a new law authorizing referendums. Moreover, the Golan is occupied Syrian territory. All relevant UN Security Council resolutions acknowledge its Syrian identity and the need for it to be returned to Syrian sovereignty. Consequently, any referendum that could be held on the future of the Golan is worthless, because it would be a serious violation of international law. Moreover, it would be a serious precedent in international relations. The Golan is at the heart of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Without Syria, there is no hope for peace in the Middle East.

All these indicators, coupled with settlement activities in the Golan, clearly show that Israel is opposed to peace, that it has continued to pursue a policy based on evasion and procrastination in the Washington talks, and that its previous discourse on the kind of peace Syria is offering in exchange for withdrawal was part of a scheme of maneuvering and deception.

The Geneva summit delineated the kind of peace we are offering. But, this move on our part has resulted in an Israeli decision to expand settlements in the Golan, aggravated suspicion, and the failure on Israel's part to commit itself to complete withdrawal. Worse still, Israel has continued to drag its feet and renewed its talk about the strategic value of the occupied Golan and Israel's security concerns. If Israel had actually been seeking peace, it would have deemed the Arab negotiators' presence in Washington and the talks they held with its negotiators there sufficient proof of their peaceful intentions as well as a strong motivation for peacemaking.

After all, Arabs have been engaged in negotiations for the past two years. Syria submitted a working paper to the Israeli negotiators during the sixth round of the bilateral talks. This paper enjoyed the appreciation of the international community and captured its attention. Syria has also helped salvage the peace process from several impasses created by Israel.

In the face of these sincere intentions and these unmistakable efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Israel has chosen to persist with its maneuvering and provocation. Settlement expansion is a clear provocation to Syria. The failure on Israel's part to declare a commitment to withdrawal from the Golan is a flagrant and blatant evasion. However, all this will not undermine Syria's position in the least, nor will it shake its commitment to just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East—the peace that will result in the dismantlement of the occupation and the return of all the Golan, as well as the other occupied Arab territories. Israel alone will be responsible for scuttling a unique opportunity to reach a just and honorable solution that could crown with success U.S. and international peace efforts.

Israeli 'Strong-Arm' Tactics in Lebanon Said 'Foolish'

JN0802173794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel, once again, has used the pretext of Lebanese resistance to launch large-scale aggression against south Lebanon and inflict heavy damage on installations and property. Once again, it sought to lay the blame at the doorstep of the Lebanese and Syrian Governments, when only the occupation—the one huge obstacle hampering Middle East peacemaking efforts—can be held responsible.

For more than two years now, in the context of the Madrid conference and the Washington talks, Syria and Lebanon have been unsuccessfully attempting to convince Israel to adhere to UN Security Council resolutions relevant to the peace process. To date, Israel refused to be bound by full withdrawal from the Golan, and raises an endless string of security concerns to hide its shifty expansionist policies. On the Lebanese front, its behavior has not been any different. Syria and Lebanon now find themselves faced with negotiations in which Israel wants to focus solely on security issues. Peace is what the negotiations should be about—the kind of peace under which the occupied territory is liberated. The impossible security terms set by Israel substantially compromise Syria's sovereignty over the Golan and Lebanon's sovereignty over southern Lebanon. Their demands also entrench the occupation in various ways and remain completely at odds with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

Contrary to all international norms, Israel deems it permissible to commit aggression on neighboring Arab states, appropriating territory in one place and raising security concerns in another. In either case, the bottom line is one and the same—and that is expansionism. The Israelis use security as a pretext to justify expansion, when, in reality, they are the aggressors whose aircraft bomb Lebanese towns and villages and it is their artillery that shells Lebanese civilians and drives them from their homes. It is Israel that has been piling up weapons, holding an arsenal bursting at the seams with all types of conventional and unconventional arms. On the other hand, the Arab states have, since 1948, been on the receiving end of Israel's recurrent acts of aggression. It is the Arabs, therefore, that can advance a better case for security guarantees. It is Arab territory that is under occupation, and it is Arab civilians who are targeted by Israel's savage raids.

Typically, however, Israel turns things upside down and falsifies facts. Instead of pursuing peace as the true guarantee of security for the region's states, Israel is pursuing expansion and aggression. It is an established fact that occupation triggers resistance, that the practices of occupation only intensify resistance, and that peace will remain elusive until occupation ends and rights are recognized.

The United States has accepted the fact that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks at the Washington talks complement each other. Plainly speaking, this means that Middle East peace is contingent upon Israel vacating the Golan Heights and south Lebanon. The Syrian and Lebanese Governments have made it abundantly clear that there will be no ceding of a single inch of the occupied Syrian or Lebanese territory. They have made it equally clear that they will never set any store by Israeli blackmailing tactics.

If Syria and Lebanon have held out hopes for this latest round of the Washington talks, this is because the United States has given an unambiguous commitment to a just and lasting settlement, grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, on all fronts of the conflict. To date, however, equivocation continues to be the bedrock of Israel's policies. Israel couples its equivocation with the strong-arm tactics it is now applying in south Lebanon. However, this foolish policy proved ineffectual in the past and is hardly likely to succeed now or in the future. Peace and stability in the region will remain dependent upon a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

India

Sharma, Czech President Meet, Hold News Conference

BK0802164194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The Czech president, Dr. Vaclav Havel, has been presented with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for the year 1993. Presenting the prestigious award at the Ashoka Hall in Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] in New Delhi today, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, described Mr. Havel as a champion of human rights. He said Dr. Havel has done a (?signal) service in providing politics its moral dimension.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said India has an exemplary record on human rights. He said the aspersion on India's record on this issue is caused by those who themselves do not have any respect for human dignity. Mr. Rao described the president of the new republic as the father of democratic movement in Europe. The award carries 25 lakh rupees and a plaque.

The Czech president described the award as the best tribute to the people of his country, who waged a relentless struggle against the totalitarian regime through nonviolence. The vice president, Mr. Dr. K.R. Narayanan, and the chairperson of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, also spoke on the occasion.

Later, addressing a press conference, Dr. Vaclav Havel said there is great potential for economic cooperation between India and his country. He observed that both countries are pursuing economic reforms and there is a need for exchanging information about the opportunities available in each country. In this regard, Mr. Havel sought to have an investment protection agreement with India and hoped that the draft agreement submitted by his delegation in this regard will be formalized by the middle of this year. Expressing his satisfaction at the discussions with the Indian leaders and businessmen, he said two agreements on trade and avoidance of double taxation have been signed.

Replying to a question on supplying spare parts to Indian defense equipment, Mr. Havel said there is no reason why his country should not export defense equipment to peace-loving democratic countries. He, however, firmly said that the Czech Republic will not export defense equipment to some countries which were receiving armaments from the former Czechoslovakia. The deputy prime minister of the Czech Republic, Mr. Ivan Kocarnik, said companies from his country will now onwards participate in tenders for projects in India. A delegation of Indian businessmen will visit Prague soon to establish relations with the Czech businessmen.

Earlier, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Czech president, Dr. Havel, discussed the possibilities of cooperation in several areas between the two countries at their meeting in New Delhi today. Mr. Rao said India was particularly interested in the cooperation in infrastructure development. The two leaders deliberated on the role and relevance of the United Nations. Mr. Rao said India was committed to the UN and its democratization. He also accepted the Czech president's invitation to visit the Czech Republic.

Rao-Havel Meeting Not Held

LD0802111994 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpt] The meeting between Czech President Vaclav Havel and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao scheduled to be held in Delhi today has not taken place. According to the president's spokesman Ladislav Spacek, the reason is the illness which has suddenly affected the Indian prime minister. The Czech president therefore continued his four-day state visit to India by sightseeing in the capital Delhi. [passage omitted]

Czech President Comments, Departs

BK0902055694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] The Czech president, Dr. Vaclav Havel, left for Varanasi this morning after a three-day stay in New Delhi. He was given a ceremonial send-off at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Speaking on the occasion, President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said that Dr. Havel's visit has provided India with an opportunity to come in contact with the great personality like him. He said such contacts will result in establishing better relations between the two countries. Talking to newspersons, Dr. Havel described his visit to India as successful.

Ministers Criticize Bhutto's 'Propaganda Offensive'

BK0802114394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, has said that the Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, is accusing India only to divert the people's attention from domestic problems. Speaking to newsmen at Thiruvananthapuram today, he said that Kashmir is an integral part of India and the government will initiate political process in the valley as soon as the law and order situation returns to normal.

Meanwhile, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, has criticized the Pakistani prime minister's propaganda offensive against India.

Congress-I Demonstrates at Pakistan High Commission

BK0902140594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Congress-I Seva Dal [volunteers group] workers today held a demonstration near the Pakistan High Commission in the capital protesting against Islamabad's interference in the internal affairs of India. Raising slogans against Pakistan and the United States, they burnt the effigy of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Later, in a memorandum to the Pakistan High Commission, the demonstrators said Pakistan should stop abetting terrorism across the border.

Russia Begins Supplying Parts for Military Hardware

BK0902103694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0532 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 9 (AFP)—Russia has begun supplying spares for India's Soviet-manufactured military hardware for the first time since the collapse of the communist regime in Moscow, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

One shipload of spares has arrived in India, another is expected this week and a third will come later this month, THE HINDU said. Indian defence officials could not be immediately reached for comments.

The arrivals mark "a breakthrough in the jammed supplies since the disintegration of the Soviet Union," the daily said in a front- page report. It said military exchanges were also planned between the two countries.

The Soviet Union supplied India with about 65 percent of its military hardware until its December 1991 collapse, and the Indian armed forces, mainly its air force, have suffered spare parts shortages.

The Hindu report came five days after the Indian army chief, General B.C. Joshi, said that the Soviet-equipped Indian military had managed to overcome a supply crunch caused by the breakup of the former superpower.

He had said that while much of what India was getting from the Soviet Union could now be obtained locally, "the situation (in Russia) is slightly better than it was two years ago."

"They don't need the degree of preparedness which they needed before the Soviet Union was dismantled," Gen. Joshi had said. "Russia today really has no threat. So a lot of inventory today is lying idle. That is available."

THE HINDU said Gen. Joshi would go to the Soviet Union this month. Russian ships would call at Bombay "in the near future, while the plans for joint naval exercises are under way.

Editorial Examines Clinton Administration Policies

BK0802140894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Clinton's Claims"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's State of the Union address on Wednesday is predictably a list of claims for success at home, and non-failures abroad. Success at home was key for his presidency for, he virtually decimated George Bush on the promise of change. President Bush had realized rather late the depth of craving among his people for change, and did initiate certain moves for an economic recovery. Mr. Clinton had reaped the benefits of those measures, being in a position today to claim that during his year in office budget deficit has been slashed down heavily. A U.S. government release on the occasion makes particular mention of the President's success in smoothly getting on with Congress for legislative purposes, and refers to legislation ranging from Family and Medical Leave Act and Health Care Reform to the Brady Bill that seeks to control the proliferation of handguns among citizens. No doubt Mr. Clinton has not made empty claims on his domestic agenda, and the inevitable approval rating after his first year in the White House is bound to show that it has jumped up appreciably since it dipped to a precarious 38 percent soon after his assumption of office.

But how has Mr. Clinton fared in foreign policy? The advantage he enjoyed over Mr. Bush, who had neglected the home front, could not have seen him through in the conduct of the United States as the world's only super power. The way his foreign policymakers messed up things in Somalia and Haiti and considerably lowered U.S. prestige in Bosnia could not but claim Defence Secretary Les Aspin. If Secretary of State Warren Christopher is still around, it is not for lack of suggestions for his removal, but because Mr. Clinton hopes the newly-inducted second in command, Mr. Strobe Talbott, would make up for lost ground through his expert handling of Russia. But Yeltsin's Russia at the feet of the U.S. cannot possibly add many more feathers to America's foreign policy crown.

Mr. Clinton may rely more on subjects specially dear to his heart, such as human rights. However, it is noticeable that an Asian voice has been increasingly asserting itself against Western definitions of human rights. After China, India and Malaysia, it is now Singapore which has rejected the West's concept of what constitutes human rights. As others feel the pinch they will speak out, and the rejection will extend to Western positions other than human rights, to equitable trade relations, transfer of technology, and non-proliferation of nuclear capability. The trouble with the Clinton Administration is that its idea of restructuring the world in the international order is largely confined to what happens in the West and its poor cousins in central and eastern Europe. For the rest, the medicine must remain the same as during the cold war—the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, missiles technology control regime, trade restrictions, and human rights.

Paper Says Pakistan's Bhutto Appeasing Military

BK0902125794 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Jan 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Her War-Like Posture"]

[Text] Benazir Bhutto's first tenure as the Prime Minister of Pakistan was noteworthy for the keen interest she took in an amicable settlement of her country's problems with India. Her second term which began three months ago is more than likely to be different altogether. What is under way currently is in fact her creeping metamorphosis into the stereotyped Pakistani leader obsessed with enhancing Pakistan's military might. The virtual rejection by Islamabad of the very idea of keeping up a serious dialogue with India after the recent talks between the two Foreign Secretaries is thus not accidental. It seems to be a part of a strategy hardly distinguishable from that of all the past military rulers of that country. Its main emphasis is on warlike talk most of the time and war-like preparations all the time. Benazir has already said much to convince Pakistan's military elite that both of them are on the same wavelength. Her belligerence on Kashmir and her bid to deflate the notion of a dialogue with India have amply served this purpose.

Benazir Bhutto is now unfolding the second part of her policy, viz, to appease the military top brass in more concrete terms. This paper's correspondent in Davos in Switzerland has shed light on the Pakistan Prime Minister's shopping mission in the European arms bazaar. Apparently, a deal for the acquisition of one or more submarines from the Swedish shipbuilding company, Kockums, is on the cards. She has taken care to keep up an anti-Indian tirade even as she participates in the World Economic Forum in Davos, and keeps herself busier with less publicised arms negotiations.

Such activities become significant especially in the background of an increasing pressure on Benazir Bhutto's government for a sharp hike in the defence budget. Air Marshal (Retd) Ayaz Ahmad Khan has just called for raising the defence expenditure from 90 billion to 150 billion rupees "to achieve numerical and qualitative military balance with Pakistan's foremost enemy." He wants that Pakistan must have more infantry, armoured artillery and air defence formations "to correct the two-to-one Indian advantage in troop strength." The so-called imbalance to Pakistan's disadvantage can be easily seen to be a myth when it is remembered that the percentage of its military spending relative to its gross domestic product is far higher than that of India and any Western democracy. But it is not just tell-tale figures of expenditure that are involved here. Pakistan's political system, some democratic trappings notwithstanding, is essentially a military dominated one. Time was when Benazir Bhutto wanted a full-fledged democracy with the generals having no political role to play. Of late, she seems to have found it expedient not to insist on the soldiers going hack to the barracks. What seems to be going on is militarisation under civilian aegis. The military-civilian confrontation is yielding place to collusion. Another "historic compromise"?

Commerce Minister Discusses Investment, Reforms

BK0902121594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 94 p 17

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 4—The number of foreign technological agreements have shot up to 1,048 and foreign investment approvals to 636 involving investment of Rs. [rupees] 6,297.69 crore in the first nine months of the current financial year, April-December 1993, Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, while inaugurating the regional conference of UK chartered accountants here today.

He further said that the foreign exchange reserves had improved appreciably to U.S. $9.9 billion as on January 1, 1994 from the level of U.S. $1 billion obtaining in June 1991. However, he said, there was no room for complacency and India had to take all the initiative required to promote productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industries. The process of liberalisation was irreversible and needed to be pushed forward, he added.

The Minister urged the Indian businessmen to upgrade the technology in manufacturing processes to achieve their competitive edge in the international market as this will help in pushing the exports at the targetted level. He said that increasing the competitiveness of our exports was the only viable alternative for long-term balance of payment problem. The Government on its part has already taken certain measures, for upgrading the technology of the economy to boost the exports, he added.

The increase in exports by 20 per cent during April-Dec. 1993 over the corresponding period of the previous year and decline in imports by 1.5 per cent during the same period is result of the measures taken by the Government to step up exports. As a consequence the balance of trade has come down to U.S. $732 million during April-December 1993, compared to U.S. $3,555 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, Mr. Mukherjee said.

The Minister said that the estimated balance of trade during current financial year 1993-94 may be less than U.S. $1 billion as compared to pound sterling 3.3 billion for the year 1992-93. The increase in exports and foreign direct investment (FDI) were cited as the main reasons for improvement in the balance of payment position by him.

Speaking about the next phase of the reform process, the Commerce Minister called for an integrated strategy to further exports.

In particular, he stressed upon reform in the commercial banking sector with regard to cost and quality of credit, bridging of information gap and adjusting policies to suit environmental concerns.

Killing of BSP Leader Sparks Violence in Varanasi

BK0902014994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, all educational institutions in Varanasi have been closed down until tomorrow. Police and contingents of the Rapid Action Force are keeping a vigil in the city which witnessed violence on Monday. The chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has announced ex-gratia payment of 1 lakh rupees each to the dependents of four persons who lost their lives in the violence. The incident followed the killing of a BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] leader on Friday last.

The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has deputed a team of senior Congress-I leaders to visit Varanasi for an on-the- spot study of the situation there. The team will meet the cross section of the people and inform the party president about the details of the incidents. According to a Congress-I spokesman, the team consists of the union minister of state for home affairs, Mr. P.M. Sayeed; the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Ram Naresh Yadav; Mr. Ramnath Shankar Shastri, MP; Mr. Harish Rawat, and Mr. Jain Mishra.

Forty-Six Tripura 'Extremists' Surrender

BK0802154594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] In Tripura, 46 extremists of the All-Tripura Tribal Force have surrendered with their arms and ammunition. They surrendered to the Tripura revenue minister today at Kamalpur subdivision in North Tripura District.

Commentary Views Treatment of Minorities in Pakistan

BK0802123794 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Commentary by correspondent Ashnarain Roy]

[Text] The old adage—physician heal thyself—is nowhere more appropriate and pertinent than in Pakistan, a case [as heard] which has unabashedly sought to use human rights as a stick to beat India in an attempt to cover up its blatant human rights abuses. Within days of Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's vile charge at the Geneva meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission that New Delhi was violating Kashmiri human rights, the U.S. State Department has taken Pakistan to task for its failure to protect the rights of non-Muslims who have been subjected to frequent extrajudicial killings, disappearance, and arbitrary arrests. The report has said that religious zealots continue to discriminate against and persecute non-Muslims basing their activities and part on discriminating legislation against religious minorities. [sentence as heard]

Pakistani leaders have abused the international fora not only to internationalize the Kashmir issue, but also sought to publicize lies and launched a hysterical tirade against India. Both the union finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, have done well to expose the real face of Islamabad at Geneva. The State Department report is, by and large, in conformity with similar reports of human rights violations catalogued by the Amnesty International, the Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Members of Pakistan's Hindu, Christian, Ahmediyas, Sikh, Bahai, and other minority communities were banned from contesting general seats in the elections in 1985 and were restricted to voting in a system of separate electorate for minorities. Ahmediyas have also suffered widespread discrimination, suppression, and violence since they were declared non-Muslims in 1974. The U.S. State Department report has referred to extrajudicial killings, often in the form of staged police encounters, resulting in the death of suspects as also death resulting from physical abuse of prisoners and detainees by police. It says there continues to be persuasive evidence of misuse of police powers. Corruption, including extortion, is rampant. Police and jailers often use force to coerce confession and to compel detainees and prisoners to discriminate others. Although police in Pakistan are required by law to obtain a warrant before entering a private home, this legal requirement is complied more in breach than in compliance and Pakistan is using the law of blasphemy against minority groups such as the Christians. This law is a threat to freedom of expression and belief and it continues to allow exploitation and intimidation in the name of religion.

Another discriminatory law against minorities pertains to separate electorates. It not only violates the international convention on civil and political rights but also the joint electorates concept under the 1973 constitution. The most recent encroachment on religious freedom is a requirement that religion be listed on the national identity cards. Such a practice amounts to religious apartheid. Even though Pakistan has acceded to the universal declaration of human rights, its laws violate article 25 and 18 of this declaration. Pakistan has moved away from its founding principle of religious freedom. Laws such as the convention law clearly violate basic principles of international human rights. Pakistan is also a signatory to basic human rights conventions. But its laws stand in direct contradiction to the principles found in these treaties.

In a new 74 page report, the Amnesty International said last December that torture, including rape, in the custody of police, paramilitary, and armed forces is endemic in Pakistan. The report further said that members of these forces have been allowed to torture and kill with impunity. Victims and their families feel great difficulties and danger, if they try to seek redress.

Iran

Fallahian on Planning of Assassination Plot

LD0802152994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Remarks by Intelligence and Security Minister 'Ali Fallahian to unidentified correspondent on 8 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] We seek refuge to God from the evil of accursed Satan. I offer my congratulations to the martyr-nurturing ummah and to the esteemed leader on the auspicious occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn. As our martyr-rearing nation is aware, there was an assassination attempt on the life of our country's beloved president. Many people have expressed concern through personal contact or by telephone. They kept requesting that we should explain the issue more. Although the interrogations are not completed yet, I will explain some of the issues to our dear nation to respond to the request of the people.

You know that during the current year global arrogance employed various means to put pressure to bear on the

Islamic Republic of Iran and on the Iranian nation. This is because our nation has refused to submit to the pressure exerted by global arrogance, thanks to our people's firm determination, their perseverance and their support for the esteemed leader, the beloved president and the state authorities. This was economic pressure, the fall in oil prices, psychological warfare, efforts to isolate the Islamic Republic regime, efforts to distort the regime's face abroad, psychological war inside the country and assistance given to their elements, who during the past several years have tried to remain lackeys of aliens.

In this connection about 24 bombs were smuggled inside the country. But thanks to the vigilance of the hidden imam's unknown soldiers, 20 of these bombs were discovered, but unfortunately four of the said bombs exploded. In this connection 16 people were arrested. Meanwhile two brothers working for the Intelligence Ministry were martyred.

Also during the current year, we have arrested about 40 spies, who have had links with Iraq's security service. There have been other security problems this year. Thanks to the efforts of the hidden imam's soldiers, the cooperation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the law enforcement forces and other intelligence organs, these conspiracies were unravelled and neutralized and security was maintained in our society.

Naturally, because of his effectiveness, because he is an outstanding and vital figure in our revolution, the honorable president has constantly been the target of arrogant blows. It is not the first time and it will not be the last time that such a conspiracy has been perpetrated; they have committed such acts many times. We even saw that they tried to assassinate the popular president of the Iranian nation in the outset of the Islamic revolution.

When we identified the main members of the group—those who are now known to us as the principle perpetrators of that deed—they are people of bad record, of poor or no faith, irresponsible and corrupt. Some of them also had connections with minigroups.

The person who instilled most of the negative thoughts in the mind of Nik-Akhtar [man arrested for attempt to shoot Rafsanjani] was a person named Mortaza Mehrpu, who worked in the police department before the revolution. After the Islamic revolution he was purged and joined the Feda'i-ye Khalq minigroup. He spent some time in prison and was then released. After the minigroup was smashed he became inactive and pursued his own evil aims and had a very bad life. He was addicted to alcoholic drinks and had unhealthy relationships.

Nik-Akhtar, himself, after he left secondary school, was an unsuitable person in terms of faith and deeds and morals. Twice he applied to join the [Revolution Guards] Corps, but was rejected. However, with the help of his friends who were also minigroup members he began his national service and was dispatched to Zahedan. There he tried to pretend that he was a suitable person. He made out that he had good points. He tried to take part in religious publicity work, although he did not have a proper faith and did not even perform his prayers. Finally he arrived in Tehran and started working as a reporter in NEGAHBAN magazine and some other magazines.

There was another person by the name of Mohammad Musavi-Nia. He is a person who has failed in life and feels dejected. In terms of piety and faith he is very weak. He is a person who is affected by negative issues in the society. He mostly read newspapers which published negative articles and tried to explain those issues in gatherings.

There is another person in the group who, for security reasons, I will not name now. He was connected to some foreign embassies. Of course, there are other persons who helped them from the fringes or provided facilities for them. They, unfortunately, worked in some newspapers. If their roles become clear to us we will take serious measures about them.

The way they worked was that they initially tried to carry out this deed during Friday prayers. They went to the Friday prayers venue a number of times and reconnoitred the place. They studied Friday prayers programs and those who delivered Friday prayers sermons. Based on information they gleaned from the Friday prayers they discovered which day the honorable president would deliver the sermons. They had planned their action for that day, which coincided with the 10 Days of Dawn period. They thought that if they carried out the deed at the shrine of his holiness the imam [Khomeyni] and on 12 Bahman [1 February] it would be more fitting. They, therefore, tested the weapon they had obtained. Nik-Akhtar and his friend Musavi-Nia went to the shrine of his holiness the imam. Of course, to encourage Nik-Akhtar, Musavi-Nia said let me do it. But eventually Nik-Akhtar said no, I will do it myself.

They went there and using ploys they tried to evade the shrine security guards. They entered the shrine. It was the beginning of the speech. The people had not congregated properly yet. When they entered the shrine they saw that they could not go to the front. Based on the information they had received they thought they could do the deed from a distance of 50 or 60 meters. They found a secluded spot and Nik-Akhtar fired at the podium. Of course, the first shot was aimed at the podium. But he got nervous and could not aim the subsequent shots at the podium. He emptied his magazine and threw his weapon down and tried to mingle in the crowd, but the people arrested him.

Of course the people were angry and beat him up severely. Other things happened in the place. Apparently some had held him tight and the officers could not take him away from the scene. This is worthy of consideration. We recommend that in such instances the people should allow the officers to take away the accused individual. Otherwise the assailant might be killed. The same thing happened to [Kurush] Nik-Akhtar and the probability of his being killed was very high.

Anyway after the arrest, he was handed over to the intelligence forces and the task of identifying the others began. So far in this connection I have come to the conclusion that these are basically adventurous elements, they lack belief, are influenced by negative insinuations, and are mostly individuals who do not go along with the revolution and Islam. They have taken such an action not because of current difficulties, rather they have opposed our system from the beginning and for a long time. Although the organized mini-groups have mostly disappeared, their remnants may come together in circles to exploit the wounds inflicted on society.

At this point I wish to thank the Hezbollahi ummah for its cooperation with the Intelligence Ministry. I am also grateful to the intelligence association, the military and law enforcement forces for endeavoring to maintain security in the society. May God grant success to all of us to improve the society's security daily. Despite all the conspiracies, our society, our country is the most safe country in the world. We owe this to all the law enforcement forces, the Guards Corps and intelligence forces in society. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

Paper Questions Official Version

NC0802143994 Paris AFP in English 0934 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb 8 (AFP)—A radical Iranian newspaper on Tuesday questioned the official version of a failed bid to kill President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last week.

A gunman fired several shots in the air as Rafsanjani addressed a gathering in the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni last Tuesday to mark the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

The official media reported that the 26-year-old gunman, Kurush Nik-Akhtar, fired bullets from a low-calibre colt pistol while standing 50 meters (yards) away from the podium.

"Why didn't the gunman try to get closer to the stand which was a simple thing to do?" the daily SALAM asked. "Why did he attempt to shoot from a distance where he knew he had no chance of hitting his target?"

The paper also demanded explanation on how the gunman had been able to pass through the shrine's security "on a day when so many foreign and domestic personalities were present."

The authorities initially played down the incident as a "childish affair", but later called it a "premeditated plot" aimed at undermining the Islamic republic.

Iranian Information Minister 'Ali Fallahian said Monday that more than 20 people had been arrested in connection with the shooting. They have all confessed to having "ominous and counter-revolutionary aims," he said.

Commentary on 'Satanic Powers' Plot

LD0802165794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1120 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Unidentified commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Greetings dear listeners. As you heard in the news bulletin, today, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Fallahian, the honorable minister of intelligence, revealed new aspects of the treacherous plot to assassinate the well-loved president of the Iranian nation.

Mr. Fallahian stressed that all those arrested have, during the preliminary interrogations, confessed to all their evil and counterrevolutionary aims and intentions. There is no doubt that the sworn enemies of the Islamic revolution are doing their utmost today to inflict blows on the glorious revolution of the Muslim nation of Iran. The assassination of well-loved prominent and pivotal personalities of the Islamic revolution has been the unchanging policy of the United States and its mercenary agents.

The victory of the Islamic revolution inflicted a heavy and fundamental blow to the interests of the United States and international Zionism and it was natural that, from the very start, these sworn enemies of the revolution would make the pivotal personalities and dignitaries of the revolution the targets of their conspiracies.

A review of the history of the Islamic revolution during the past 15 years reveals the personalities and dignitaries who were targeted by the enemy from the very beginning of the revolution. The assassination of the regime's dignitaries, whether in physical terms or in terms of propaganda, has been part and parcel of the general strategy of the enemies of the Islamic revolution to damage the Islamic republic.

We can recall the years when the enemy first tried, by various means and by the dissemination of lies and rumors, to assassinate the character of the harmless martyr Beheshti, and, since it met with the decisive reaction of the Islamic nation and the imam of the Ummah [Khomeyni] and since its conspiracy was foiled, it embarked on the wretched 7th of Tir [28 June—reference to bomb explosion at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters in 1981] incident and martyred that faithful friend of the imam, along with 72 of the best companions of the Islamic revolution.

Today, too, the Islamic revolution is faced with those same old enemies and they have not let up for a moment their efforts to inflict blows on the Islamic republic.

Just as the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] said in a gathering of religious scholars and clergymen, satanic powers are today also trying to physically eliminate the clergymen who are effective and important for the country and for Islam and Muslims, and their latest attempt was the recent incident of 1 February during which they intended to deprive the Islamic Ummah of a prominent and effective personality who is devoted to Islam, Muslims and the Islamic regime, that is, our well-loved president, who has given his life and his youth for this. But, thanks be to God, the satans' agents failed once again, just as they have in many of their previous plots and evil deeds.

The enemy is unaware of the divine succor supporting the Islamic revolution and the unfailing determination of the nation to back the regime's officials. The Islamic Republic of Iran is marching forward with the assistance of the nation's support and God's blessings and ultimate defeat will, God willing, belong to the enemies of God and Islam.

Velayati Visits in Indonesia, Urges Action in Bosnia

LD0902110594 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently in Indonesia, said that the only solution to Bosnian tragedy was international military intervention.

He called on the U.N. Security Council to prescribe international military action to stop the genocide and force evacuation of the occupied territories.

Speaking at the meeting of the selected foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Jakarta Tuesday, Velayati said that the latest Serbian aggression on, and genocide of, the Bosnian Muslims in Sarajevo, had left no doubt that the international community had "miserably failed to stop this savagery."

He added that the U.N. Security Council's resolutions calling for protection of safe areas including Sarajevo and those demanding the lifting of the siege of that city had remained only "dead letters."

The foreign minister drew attention to the fact that some certain European powers were to force the Bosnian government to accept surrender and a so-called peace which would be the begining of more tragedy and ethnic cleansing.

"The Security Council should at least allow Bosnia and those who are prepared to help this besieged republic to take action in individual or collective self-defense," he said.

In such circumstances, Velayati added, efforts aimed at ending the siege of these cities in any possible way, lifiting arms embargo against B-H, eliminating all impediments for the dispath of humanitarian aid to Bosnia and enforcement of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro would constitue the least that could be done.

He called on the coordinating bureau and the NAM caucaus in New York to consider in close consultation with contact group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) the ways and means to move this agenda forward in the Security Council.

Velayati added that the above-mentioned groups could also consider various methods for taking the issue to the general assembly directly or under uniting for peace procedure in the event that the council failed once again to adopt a meaningful resolution.

Commentary: U.S. Backs Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina

NC0802204094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] While the U.S. Government's media were loudly proclaiming that Washington was seeking to end the crisis of Bosnia-Herzegovina and U.S. politicians announced their opposition to the Serbian policy in this blood-soaked republic, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR reported that Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, said that Bosnia-Herzegovina would be mistaken to believe that U.S. Marines will be deployed on its territory. He added that the only way to achieve peace is by negotiating and putting pressure on the Bosnian Muslims to make concessions and to bargain. Hamilton added that refraining from exerting such pressure will mean continued fighting in the former Yugoslav republics.

Hamilton's remarks are the clearest indication of the U.S. diplomatic posture on the Bosnian crisis. They reveal the truth about official U.S. policy regarding the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Until now, Washington's public policy has been to condemn Serbian actions and at one point it accused the Belgrade government of assaulting Bosnia-Herzegovina's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Still, throughout two years of fighting and brutal Serbian aggression, followed by Croatian aggression, against Bosnian lives, wealth, and sanctity, it became evident to all neutral observers and analysts that the United States was consistently supporting Serbian superiority in Bosnia.

The United States has always worried about the rise of an Islamic government in the heart of Europe. Over the past two years, ever since Bosnia-Herzegovina attained nominal independence in the winter of 1991 and became a UN member, Washington has sought to pursue methods that would progressively weaken Sarajevo's government. Although Cyrus Vance was a UN envoy seeking to solve the Bosnian crisis, he was also a U.S. politician and for this reason evidently acted in line with U.S. diplomatic guidelines regarding this issue. He always supported and advocated Bosnia's partition and annexing the Serbian part to a Greater Serbia and the Croatian part to Croatia. He wanted a solution to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina into seven or ten isolated Islamic enclaves amid Serbian and Croatian areas. He made efforts to push through this solution at the New York and Geneva conferences. This is in line with the spirit and logic of U.S. policy on the crisis in this European republic. It is for this reason that we said at the beginning of this talk that Hamilton's remarks were truthful and reflected the political facts.

Turkish Economy Minister Meets Government Officials

LD0802194994 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey are studying export of Iran's natural gas to Europe through a pipeline via Turkish Territory.

Turkey is expected to import 5,000 million cubic meters of Iranian gas annually, and is also willing to go ahead with purchase of Iranian oil.

Turkish Minister of State for Economy, Cemil Erhan, and Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i in a meeting in Tehran expressed satisfaction with consolidation of Tehran-Ankara relations.

The two officials referring to historical bonds between the two nations, called for expansion of cooperation in all areas.

Erhan and Aqazadeh agreed to follow up the accord through dispatch of a mission to Turkey from the Iranian Oil Ministry.

Erhan arrived in Tehran Monday [7 February] at the invitation of Minister of Heavy Industries, Mohammad Nejad-Hoseynian.

Paper Discusses Turkey's Stance on Kurdish Problem

NC0802201094 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Jan 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafrar: "What Are the Turkish Government's Objectives?"]

[Text] On Friday Turkish jets infiltrated 100 km into Iraqi territory and extensively bombed parts of that country. Apparently 50 Turkish jets participated in the operation, which resulted in civilian casualties in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Turkey's Kurdish Workers' Part [PKK] has denied that even one of its members was killed. Meanwhile, the Turkish military did not spare Iranian civilians and killed and wounded 28 people in the two villages in Sardasht. The two villages of Tuzhaleh and Nukan in (Qasemrash) area were hit by missiles.

This situation cannot be assessed without taking into consideration Turkey's plans for the future of Iraqi Kurdistan.

In Europe, and specifically in Britain and France, steps have been taken to dismember Iraqi Kurdistan and to form a Kurdish state.

The United States conditionally approves of this.

America's condition is that this process not benefit Iraq and Iran and benefit Turkey.

The Turkish Government is pursuing a vague stance of double standards. On the one hand, by accepting the continued presence of U.S., British, and French forces on its territory, it paves the way for the formation of a Kurdish government while on the other it knows that because it has the largest Kurdish population in the area it will be the one mostly harmed by the formation of this government.

Recently, Turkey signed a border security agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran with the intention of crushing the PKK.

If the concern felt by the Ankara Government over PKK activities inside Turkey is removed, it will give in to the objectives of the Western governments in this region more easily.

Therefore, the insistence by the officials in Ankara for signing a border agreement with Iran has nothing to do with their goodwill, and once the threat of the PKK against Turkey is removed, the Kurdish counterrevolutionaries' pressures on Iran is expected to increase.

At any rate, the Turkish air raid on Iranian territory should not be considered an ordinary act. The Turkish Government wants to first send a committee to the bombed region to study the situation and then to make a statement. Ankara cannot simply close the issue by merely expressing its apologies. The casualties that the Iranian border residents have suffered is high. If this is the outcome of the two countries' border cooperation, then the entire principle of the issue should be doubted.

There should be security either for both governments or none in the Iranian and Turkish Kurdish-inhabited areas.

Some time ago, Talabani's forces in coordination with the European governments started to crush the Muslim Kurds in Iraq. This was an attempt to form a secular government in Kurdistan. One can see the role played by Turkey's security forces in this incident. The Turkish Government should be made to understand that any type of action by the European governments in its territory, which will lead to the dismemberment of Iraqi Kurdistan and the formation of a Kurdish government, will be to the detriment of the entire region and should be halted as soon as possible.

Russian Ambassador on Role in Persian Gulf

NC0802134094 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Jan 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Russian Ambassador to Iran Sergey Mikhaylov Tretyakov by unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran on 25 January]

[Text] [ABRAR] What is the Russian viewpoint on how to establish peace in Central Asia and the Caucasus? Does Moscow believe that it can restore peace in Nagorno-Karabakh and Tajikistan all by itself, or does it need the assistance of countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and the international organizations?

[Tretyakov] The visit by ambassador Kazimirov, the Russian presidential special emissary, to Iran is a clear answer to your question. Russia does not wish to take any measures in these regions alone. It has been repeatedly stressed by the Foreign Minister and all other high level officials of our country that Russia has taken and continues to take steps independently as well as in relation to international organizations such as the CSCE Minsk group.

At the same time, Moscow attaches great value to cooperation with regional countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, and around the world. We consider our recent consultations with Iranian officials extremely important and worthwhile. The officials of the two countries announced that Tehran and Moscow can cooperate in resolving the wars in Nagorno-Karabakh and Tajikistan. They have also announced that they support the peace efforts of international organizations and other countries.

[ABRAR] Are you optimistic about resolving these conflicts or do you believe that the Nagorno-Karabakh and Tajikistan conflicts will continue?

[Tretyakov] It is natural for Russia to be sincerely interested in a solution to these conflicts, which not only affect the countries involved but will also have negative effects on the CIS politically, economically, and militarily. Therefore, we are seeking to end these conflicts as soon as possible.

[ABRAR] How do you view the scope for cooperation between Russia and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)? Some Russian media recently threatened the Central Asian countries and the Caucasus that have joined the ECO, saying that in the event of their broadening ties within the ECO, they will be expelled from the CIS. Do the Russian political circles also contribute to this view?

[Tretyakov] Perhaps some individuals and officials have aired their personal views. Russia maintains that the domestic and foreign policies of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus are to be respected above all else. It is up to them whether they wish to be members of the ECO or the CIS.

[ABRAR] In your opinion, is it a problem if they are simultaneously members of the ECO and the CIS?

[Tretyakov] We have always stressed that we are opposed to competitiveness among various countries in this region. However, on the other hand we favor constructive cooperation in the region. In this regard, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had stressed that the aim of the ECO is constructive cooperation among countries and the creation of a climate of confidence and security in the region.

Russia has bilateral relations with all the ECO member countries. As for Russia joining the ECO, we must wait and see the working of this organization. Naturally, when joining any organization every country should keep its own national interests in mind.

[ABRAR] What is Moscow's policy with regard to the Middle East? For example, there are potential dangers such as altering Iraq's borders and the possibility of the creation of an independent Kurdistan in that country. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Tretyakov] Issues pertaining to national boundaries and their territorial integrity are among the most sensitive issues for all the countries of the world. In some cases, border issues have evolved into disputes. For this reason, not only are we in favor of safeguarding the territorial integrity of all countries, we do not want any border disputes among countries to threaten the peace of the region and the world with instability and insecurity.

[ABRAR] So is Russia opposed to changes in the borders of Iraq?

[Tretyakov] All issues should be resolved within the framework of international rights. One determine the objectives of the circles suggesting these actions.

[ABRAR] How do you appraise the Tehran-Moscow relations in the Middle East?

[Tretyakov] In all the meetings that take place between the two countries, we exchange views on the issues of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, and on most occasions there is a unanimity of views.

[ABRAR] It appears that Russia has recently made some moves in the Persian Gulf, for instance a military-security pact with Kuwait. Similarly, we may refer to the remarks by Lukin, the Russian ambassador in Washington, who has stressed the sale of arms to Iraq and criticized the U.S. policy of refraining from arms sales to other countries. Does Russia intend to become active again in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf?

[Tretyakov] If the United States, Japan, and Western Europe are to pursue their economic and political interests in the various regions of the world including the Persian Gulf, why should we not act accordingly? Geographically, the Persian Gulf is closer to Russia and has a special importance to us for economic and security reasons.

[ABRAR] The West is competing with Russia for arms sales in regions such as the Middle East and East Asia. It is for this reason that the West wishes to prevent sales of Russian arms to these regions and is opposing them. In this regard, Bill Clinton signed an agreement with Yeltsin during his visit to Moscow. What is your opinion on this?

[Tretyakov] It is natural that Russia, which is one of the major arms producers of the world, should be interested in expanding its arms market. I do not believe that this rivalry is commercial, as you state. At the same time, this competition does not have a political aspect. Here I should assert that Russia is one of the signatories of the treaty banning the production and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Therefore we will act only in accord with this treaty in dealing with other countries on armament matters.

[ABRAR] In the wake of the victory of the nationalists and communists in Russian parliamentary elections, U.S. policy toward Russia has become dichotomized. On the one hand, it declares full support for Yeltsin and his free market policies, while on the other hand it seeks to counter Moscow's influence in the neighboring countries? What is your analysis of this two-pronged U.S. policy?

[Tretyakov] Some Western circles have greatly magnified the result of the Russian parliamentary elections when it is not nearly so bad.

Yazdi: Human Rights Charges Aim To Discredit Nation

LD0802201894 Tehran IRNA in English 2001 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Tabriz (East Azarbaijan Province) Feb. 2., IRNA—Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here today that the Iranian Government is ready and willing to offer every evidence to international organizations in demonstration of full respect to the human rights.

He said the foreign allegations of human rights abuses in Iran are unfounded and aimed only to disrepute Iran.

Yazdi observed that the primary duty of the judiciary is to ensure due implementation of the laws and investigate any instance of unstatutory conduct of the laws throughout the state.

Majles Speaker Receives Moroccan Ambassador

LD0902120294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] At a meeting with the Moroccan ambassador yesterday, referring to the religious and cultural common denominators between Muslim countries and attempts by world arrogance to create a rift among the world Muslims, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri said: Today, world arrogance considers Islam and Muslims as a serious threat, and tries to deal Islam blows by any means possible, whether by direct assault or by creating rifts among 1 billion Muslims.

He added: Solely because of its grudge against and hatred for Islam, world arrogance does not show any serious reaction to the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina while, under the pretext of defending human rights, it describes as inhuman our stance on Salman Rushdie's blasphemous act and his insult to the sanctities of the world Muslims. That double standard of theirs on the world Muslims stems from nothing but arrogance's hatred for Islam and Muslims.

He added: We Muslims and Islamic countries should learn a lesson from the actions of the enemies of Islam and preserve our unity. For we have no alternative but to stand up to the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

The Majles speaker stressed the need to improve parliamentary relations between the two countries.

At the meeting the Moroccan ambassador in Iran expressed the hope that relations between the two countries will further expand in the future. He called for the establishment of parliamentary relations between the two countries and the exchange of parliamentary delegations. On behalf of his government he invited the Majles speaker to visit Morocco.

Nepal

Bhattarai Loses By-Election to Communists

BK0902050494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0349 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 9 (AFP)—The governing Nepali Congress party president has been defeated in a Kathmandu by-election, while the party's candidate emerged victorious in Jhapa, officials said Wednesday.

The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) candidate Bidhya Bhandari received 43,319 votes against ruling party president Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's 41,490 votes, bagging the coveted seat in the Nepalese lower house of parliament by the 1,829 votes.

The rightist National Democratic Party (NDP) candidate, Jog Mehar Shrestha gained 7,537 votes.

It was the third election defeat of Bhattarai's 50-year political career, a Nepali Congress party source said.

Bidhya Bhandari is the widow of former NCP-UML general secretary and parliamentarian, Madan Kumar Bhandari, who was killed in a jeep accident last May.

The by-elections, held under heavy security Monday in Kathmandu and Jhapa districts, were held to fill two seats in the lower house of parliament left vacant last year by the deaths of two communist parliamentarians.

In Jhapa, 390 kilometres, (243 miles) southeast of here, the Nepali Congress candidate, Krishna Prasad Shitaula won the seat with 16,194 votes.

Shitaula's closest rival, NCP-UML's Lila Udashi Khanal, polled 13,337 votes. National Democratic Party (NDP) candidate, Gopal Chandra Rajbanshi received 8,251 votes.

Political observers and student activists blame Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala for the defeat of party president Bhattarai. Had Koirala supported his party colleague during campaigning he might have won, they charged.

If Bhattarai had won the election, he would have become a viable alternative should Koirala resign from office.

Bhattarai's defeat could lead to a split in the country's largest democratic party.

At a time when opposition parties are demanding Koirala's resignation over his poor economic performance and inability to maintain law and order, a Bhattarai victory would have put Koirala in a very difficult position, a highly placed Nepali Congress party source said.

Altogether 24 candidates contested the election in Kathmandu, while in Jhapa, nine candidates filed their nomination papers.

The victors will serve a two and a half year term in the lower house.

Students Demonstrate Against Prime Minister

BK0802160694 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 8 (AFP)—Several hundred pro-democracy students Tuesday demonstrated against Nepal's prime minister for allegedly deceiving the ruling Nepali Congress [NC] contender in the by-elections, witnesses said.

Nearly 10,000 pro-democracy Nepal Students Union (NSU) members gathered at the eastern corner of the city hall, where the by- elections' vote counting was in progress.

The students shouted slogans against Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, such as "Down with disruptionist Koirala," and "Down with pro-India Koirala."

The students bitterly criticized Koirala for his "unhelpful attitude" towards the Nepali Congress party president and candidate, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, in Kathmandu during his campaign for the by-elections on Monday.

The by-elections, held in Kathmandu and Jhapa districts under heavy security, were to fill two seats in the lower house of parliament left vacant last year by the deaths of two communist parliamentarians.

After raising anti-Koirala slogans for several hours at a street corner in Kathmandu, several hundred of them headed towards the prime minister's official residence in a procession.

Riot police followed the angry students' procession but did not stop them, the witnesses added.

The students said the prime minister's bitter remarks last week, broadcast over radio and television, against Bhattarai for his anti-government remarks during his campaign had badly affected the NC contender.

They said Koirala's criticism had played a negative role that led people to vote for Bhattarai's opposition.

Meanwhile, the country's main opposition party candidate in Kathmandu is leading in the vote counts, the state radio announced.

The announcement said the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) candidate Bidhya Bhandari was leading in Kathmandu late Tuesday by over 6,000 votes against her ruling Nepali Congress party rival, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

But in Jhapa, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southeast of here, the Nepali Congress candidate, Krishna Prasad Shitaula, was leading over his NCP-UML contender, Lila Udashi Khanal, by over 1,000 votes.

Final results are expected to be announced Wednesday noon.

Election Commission officials said that in Kathmandu elections, a total 95,978 ballots were cast out of the 136,655 registered voters. While in Jhapa some 44,981 voters exercised their franchise out of the 67,896 registered.

Altogether, 24 candidates are in the election fray in Kathmandu, and in Jhapa nine candidates had filed their nomination papers. The winners in the by-elections will remain in the lower house for two and a half years.

Pakistan

Protest Lodged Against Indian 'Vilification Campaign'

BK0902105494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Pakistan has once again lodged a strong protest regarding India's vilification campaign against the Pakistani prime minister. The protest note was handed to the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad today. Briefing reporters, a Foreign Office spokesman referred to statements by the Indian president and by Salman Khurshid, minister of state for external affairs. He said that India cannot use such vilification to divert the world's attention from the atrocities being committed in occupied Kashmir. He said that such statements reflect India's helplessness in Kashmir, and give the impression that India has no alternative but to resort to a vilification campaign in defense of its policy of genocide.

When asked about the Kashmir visit by representatives of the European countries, the spokesman said the diplomatic representatives were not permitted to meet people freely. He said they should visit Sopor, Kupwara, and Bijbiara, where gross human rights violations are being committed.

Daily Criticizes Remarks of India's President

BK0802144894 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 7 Feb 94 p 10

[Editorial: "India's Perturbation"]

[Text] The far-reaching and effective steps taken by Pakistan on the Kashmir issue to consolidate world public opinion and exert pressure on India has perturbed it, which was reflected in the speech made by President Shankara Dayal Sharma at Jaipur. He made Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto the target of his criticism and used very harsh words. He said: Ms. Benazir Bhutto is turning away from realities. She has forgotton the atrocities committed on her own people and has lost touch with the culture of the subcontinent. She has also ignored the virtues of benevolence of Pakistan and India as well as of all religions. Otherwise, she would not have ordered the police to open fire on her own mother, brother, and kith and kin, who had gathered to pay homage to her father, the late prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Shankar Dayal Sharma deserves respect for being the president of India and because of his diplomatic stature. But, he did not maintain the dignity of his post nor did he fulfill the demands of diplomatic norms. There is no justification for him making the person of Benazir Bhutto the target of his criticism. Benazir Bhutto and the Government of Pakistan have expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir. They raised their voices of protest against the Indian occupation forces for perpetrating atrocities on Kashmiris and also informed world public opinion of the calamities and hardships befalling the Kashmiris. Do not the heart-rending facts produced by all neutral international organizations, human rights organizations, and mass media on the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir bear testimony to India's belligerent stand and its oppression of the Kashmiris? What did the Indian president unravel by referring to the 5 January incident in Larkana wherein only one person was killed? All the newspapers in Pakistan carried full details of the incident. The occurrence of the incident as well as the motives behind it do not remain hidden in any quarters. Can the Indian president cover up the massacres of thousands of Kashmiri men, women, and children? Can he deny the burning up of scores and hundreds of houses there? Obviously, he cannot do so. Is it the culture of the subcontinent to sidetrack from the pledges made at the time of the adoption of the UN resolutions to implement them? Is the forcible occupation of any region against the will of its people tantamount to the observance of the ideals of goodwill? For the information of the president, the Larkana incident, wherein only one life was lost, was the outcome of the clash between two groups of people. Neither the government nor the local administration has anything to do with it. Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir are being discussed in all the world fora. What a terrible and abominable culture is it wherein Indian troops are committing excesses on the defenseless people of occupied Kashmir and are crushing their bodies, lives, and their human rights as well?

Bhutto Sends 'National Reconciliation' Message to Sharif

BK0802101494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has sent a message to the opposition leader in the National Assembly, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The message was delivered by the federal minister for water and power, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar, in Lahore this morning.

Later talking to newsmen, the minister said that the message was in the overall context of national reconciliation. Replying to questions, he said the message was reflective of the prime minister's keen desire for national reconciliation. He said the present government does not want to enter into any sort of confrontation with anyone.

Bhutto's Husband To Visit Baghdad as 'Special Envoy'

BK0802091994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, MNA [member of National Assembly], is proceeding to Baghdad tomorrow as the prime minister's special envoy. He will hold talks with the Iraqi leaders on the release of three Pakistanis who have been sentenced to jail there. Two of the Pakistanis were engaged in mine clearing operations along the Iraqi-Kuwait border and the third was working with a Kuwaiti commercial establishment. They inadvertently entered the Iraqi territory.

Government Expresses 'Shock' Over Sarajevo Events

LD0702143694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1300 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Pakistan has expressed shock at the Serb attack on the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, which claimed 68 people and wounded over 200 others. In a statement issued in Islamabad, the Government of Pakistan urged the world community to punish those responsible and get the siege of the capital lifted. It has also asked the UN Security Council to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia to enable the Bosnians to defend themselves against the aggression. The statement says failure of the world community in taking any action would seriously undermine the credibility of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Attends Air Force Roll-Out Ceremony

BK0802072994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] Kamra—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will hand over the first Pak-rebuilt F-7P Fighter Interceptor Aircraft to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) today in a roll-out ceremony at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC).

On arrival, the Prime Minister will be received by Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan. The Prime Minister will also take a round of the PAC and inspect the overhaul and engineering facilities there.

F-7P, a Chinese aircraft, is the larest addition to PAF's inventory. The ceremony will herald a new era of technological advancement and technical cooperation between Pakistan and China.

F-7P is a Chinese-built version of Soviet MIG-21. Its basic capabilities have been enhanced with improved fire control and avionics systems to meet specific PAF sources.

F-7P aircraft has been inducted into PAF to augment its fleet of interceptor aircraft against threats of adversaries.

The F-7 Rebuild Factory was established in 1972. It rolled out its first F-6 fighter in 1981, while its trainer version FT-6 was rebuilt in 1985. Later on, its capability was enhanced to rebuild FT-5 in 1987 and A-5III in 1988. The factory is now rebuilding all Chinese origin aircraft on PAF's inventory.

This is also the first time that the aircraft rebuilding has been taken up in the country. This has not only reduced the burden on economy but also increased the technical maturity of the work force.

The F-6 Rebuild Factory, which is also rebuilding the F-7s, has successfully rebuilt more than 294 Chinese origin aircraft of various types for the PAF since its establishment. It also makes some 10,000 aparts of F-6s, FT-6s, FT-5s and A-5IIIs for maintenance of these aircraft.

The factory has also produced 500 and 800 line supersonic auxiliary tanks for the F-7s. They are in addition to the 1,140 line auxiliary tanks which the factory has already made for the F- 6s. These tanks are installed externally to increase the endurance and range of the aircraft.

The first F-7P was taken up for overhaul by the factory in April, 1993. The basic infrastructure for the overhaul was already available and only a few additions for the overhaul of F-7 have been made.

The PAC comprises F-6 Rebuild Factory, Mirage Rebuild Factory, Aircraft Manufacturing Factory and Kamra Avionics and Radar Factory.

The Mirage Rebuild Factory is actively engaged in rebuilding the French Mirage aircraft and overhauling Praff & Whitney F-100-200 engines for the F-16s.

More than 25 of the ex-Australian Mirages which PAF acquired in what may be called as "the deal of the decade" have also been produced by this factory. The Aircraft Manufacturing Factory is engaged in co-production of Karakoram-8 Aircraft with Chinese collaboration, apart from manufacturing the MFI-17 (Mushshak) aircraft of Swedish origin. Though not too old, the Kamra Avionics and Radar Factory is presently rebuilding ground radars for the PAF.

Bhutto Comments on Self-Reliance, Defense

BK0802154394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said her government is committed to self-reliance and indigenization of defense production to break the shackles of dependence. She was speaking at the roll-out ceremony of the first Pakistani rebuilt F- 7P aircraft in the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex [PAC] at Kamra today. The prime minister said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] Self-reliance is the key to national security, especially in the field of defense technology. However, we cannot increase our self-reliance, particularly in the field of defense technology unless we develop the scientific potential amongst the people of our country. And, that is one of the objectives of this government to encourage people to go into science and into the higher elements of scientific study. Yesterday, the cabinet took a decision that every [word indistinct] or every top scientists who does a Ph.D in this country will be given an additional stipend for one year to encourage the young people of our country to choose the scientific field to develop the full scientific potential of this country. The people's government is committed both to self-reliance and to the indigenization of defense production to break the shackles of dependence —a dependence that has cost us truly in the past wars. History teaches us that nations who depend on others to fortify their defense. [sentence as heard] We consider the defense of our homeland the foremost policy. Last time as prime minister of the people's government, I authorized this F-7P overhaul project at PAC, Kamra, in December 1989. Therefore, it is a special privilege for me to come here and witness the completion of this project. [end recording]

The prime minister said let us pray to almighty Allah that he may grant us the strength and wisdom to make our nation self-reliance and strong for the safety and well-being of our people. Acknowledging the skill of engineers and technicians of F-7P rebuilt factory, she said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] A nation is great not only because of machines, a nation is great because of the talented men and women who give of their best. History is the story of human success. There is no doubt that the foundations of an aviation industry in Pakistan has now been laid. Our achievements over two decades bear the testimony to this fact. [end recording]

Addressing the ceremony, Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani assured that the government is carefully monitoring the strategic plans in the region and is fully alive to the defense needs of the country. He said the government is favorably inclined to the indigenous development of defense products and the private sector is welcomed in this field.

The director general of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Air Marshal Dilawar Hussain, in his welcome address said that trial rebuilt phase comprises overhaul of three aircraft—one rolling out today, the second to be overhauled by the end of this month and the third in April this year.

Later, Ms. Benazir Bhutto witnessed static display of F-7P aircraft. She formally handed over the aircraft to Pakistan Air Force. F-7P is the battle-honored aircraft with high maneuverability in air combat. The aircraft in its modified and improved version is a potent weapon system with modern avionic fire control system and multifarious load carrying capability to fulfill intercept and attack role.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.